

## Bonn pressing for missile talks

WASHINGTON (R) — West Germany's foreign and defence ministers, pressing for speedy East-West talks on cutting short-range nuclear arms, presented their views to a sceptical U.S. government Monday. The disagreement over talks on short-range nuclear forces (SNF) has created a deep split in the NATO alliance, with Washington and London strongly opposed to Bonn's position. President George Bush, travelling to Chicago aboard Air Force One, appealed to West Germany for unity in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. "My appeal to the Germans has been that we keep NATO together, that we stay together... I talked to (Chancellor Helmut) Kohl the end of last week, and he knows my view that there must not be any unilateral, fait accompli here," Bush told reporters. In a radio interview recorded before leaving for the short-notice visit to Washington, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said it was in NATO's interest to negotiate balanced East-West SNF cuts because the Soviet short-range arsenal is now vastly superior. He and Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg were presenting their case and discussing other arms control issues with Secretary of State James Baker and other U.S. officials, a U.S. diplomat said.

# Jordan Times

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## Iran to amend constitution

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini appointed a 20-man committee Monday to revise the constitution. Tehran Radio quoted Khomeini as saying in a letter to President Ali Khamenei that the committee was to complete its work within two months and the revised constitution would be put to a referendum. He said issues to be discussed by the committee would include the leadership of Iran, centralisation of executive and judicial powers, reform of state radio and television and revision of the number of parliament deputies. Calls for the revision of the 1979 constitution were made after Khomeini, 86, sacked his designated successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri last month, leaving a potential power vacuum in case of his early death. Iranian newspapers reported that one proposed amendment — backed by Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, tipped to become president in August elections — called for elimination of the presidency to centralise executive power in the hands of the president. Rafsanjani and Khamenei, as well as Chief Justice Abdol Karim Mojtavi Ardebili, were among the officials Khomeini appointed to the committee.

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His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Thanks N. Yemen for its support for Jordan

## King briefs Saleh on talks in France, U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Monday paid a brief visit to Amman and held a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein, who briefed him on the outcome of his visits to France and the United States. The King also reassured the president about the situation in the Kingdom following several days of unrest in some parts of the country. Jordan, which has transcended the difficult circumstances and the passing crisis, is back to normal now, the King said. He also voiced his

appreciation to the North Yemeni president for his concern and thanked the Yemeni government and people for their support. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, and the King's private advisor Amer Khammash. The Yemeni president was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani and two other senior officials.

## King empowers ministry chiefs to run affairs until new cabinet is appointed

# Rifai government resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday accepted the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and entrusted the secretaries-general of the various ministries to run the affairs of their respective ministries until a new government is appointed.

In a message to Rifai accepting his resignation, King Hussein paid tribute to the outgoing Cabinet for its endeavours over the past four years and for its efforts to carry out its duty and maintain the momentum of development and progress. Following are highlights of the King's message to Rifai: "I send you and your colleagues my greetings and express deep appreciation to you for shouldering the responsibility of the government over the past years, exerting most sincere efforts to pursue and fulfil the Kingdom's goals and aspirations. I have known you over the past years as a statesman sincere-

ly working for his country and capable of shouldering the responsibility and achieving the nation's sublime objectives. You have shouldered the responsibility under very difficult and critical circumstances that required comprehensive review of the Kingdom's economic policies and its new directions and its plans at the national level. You have shouldered the task despite the difficulties that faced the region's economy and its negative effects on our economic march. You have exerted all possible efforts to execute our directives and our policies to end inter-Arab differences and mobilise Arab efforts. You helped start a new era of inter-Arab détente which began in Amman and resulted in the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council

(ACC), which is aimed at pursuing cooperation among Arab countries and which is considered as a landmark in Arab solidarity. This step will no doubt open the road towards further interaction among Arab states at all levels. These efforts also led to the establishment of a strong basis for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation on solid foundations of mutual respect and mutual assistance and support, providing all possible help to the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories where our brothers are struggling against occupation for freedom and independence. It is quite normal for our country to see different responsible groups and personalities taking turns in shouldering the responsibility to continue the process of construction and development. I express my deepest appreciation for your relentless efforts over the past years in shouldering the responsibilities and serving as a dear brother and a loyal soldier. In accepting the resignation of your government, I wish you and your colleagues the best wishes for success. I am confident that you will always be ready to serve this country at any post at any time."

Following are major excerpts from Rifai's letter of resignation: "Your Majesty the King, I send you, Sir, my most sincere wishes and express my affection and sincere loyalty, wishing you success in the leadership of our nation. When Your Majesty entrusted me with the responsibility of the government over four years ago to serve under your leadership, I prayed to God to grant me the power to shoulder this heavy responsibility. All through the past years I have been praying to God to help me fulfil my duties. I have worked under your wise guidance and directives, and devoted my time and effort to serve you and the Kingdom, feeling continuously attached to Your Majesty. I have watched Your Majesty working day and night for serving this country and deeply in thought about means of achieving the best for our countrymen and their progress and prosperity in an atmosphere marked with stability and security. You have constantly worked and still work towards serving the whole Arab Nation and solving its problems. You have devoted your time and efforts to bolster Arab solidarity and to transform this solidarity into a stage marked with consensus and agreement. Your Majesty's efforts have been crowned with success with the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — the dream of the past, the reality of today and the hope of tomorrow. Your Majesty has advocated the Arab Nation's stand at all levels and in all countries in the East and the West and in the capitals of the major world pow-

ers. As a result, Jordan's relations with the rest of the world have acquired an ideal and bright image. Over the past years, my colleagues and I in the government have spared no time or efforts in our endeavour to serve this country. I have ensured throughout these years that all the ministries and their various departments and organisations worked with devotion and in close cooperation shouldering their duties for attaining the common welfare. With the grace of God and through continued guidance from Your Majesty we were able to attain a great deal at all levels despite the hardships on the domestic and foreign levels. These accomplishments were attained with the sincere and diligent work of the Jordanian people and their determination to pursue the goal of development. Having served for over four years in constant and relentless efforts I have felt that I should take leave and submit my resignation as prime minister. I feel quite satisfied with all the work I did in serving Your Majesty and the country. As I beg that Your Majesty accept this resignation, I again express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to Your Majesty for your love and kindness accorded to my colleagues and myself over these years. The King held a meeting with the secretaries-general of the various ministries later Monday. Addressing them, the King called for an end to "recklessness and rivalry" and urged them to "continue constructive action and progress towards overcoming the present difficult financial circumstances that our country is passing through."

"We have learned a lot from the stage we passed through and our duty is to work quickly, confidently and positively towards achieving our aspirations," the King said. The King also called for mobilising everybody's efforts "in our dear homeland to conduct a comprehensive national review, face the challenges ahead of us, and jointly build our homeland relying on ourselves. We are in the stage of reorganising everything," the King said and called for sharing responsibility and burdens "to enable ourselves to stand up and preserve our freedom, existence and gains, and protect the freedom of decision-making as well as adoption of positions which preserve our country, ensure its development and progress, and enable us to stand alongside our brothers, the sons of Palestine, and support them with all the might we have." The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's advisor for Political Affairs Adnan Abu Odeh and the King's Private Adviser Amer Khammash.



A Palestinian casualty in the occupied West Bank

## Beirut alight again; deputies urge truce

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Water and power supplies were restored Monday to Beirut where a group of deputies from the divided Lebanese parliament, mostly Muslims, met to echo a plea by Christian colleagues for a truce and a dialogue. The city's battered streets bustled with activity as people reverted to normal business on a seventh day of calm after five weeks of savage artillery bombardments between the Syrian army and Lebanese militias, and mainly Christian soldiers of army commander Michel Aoun. The coastal highway south of Beirut was choked with traffic as thousands of people who led the fighting returned to check on homes and relatives while others, fearing a new flareup, tried to leave. A French tanker delivered fuel to the Christian-controlled power station of Zouk, which supplies most of Lebanon. The plant stopped operations, cutting off running water services, a week ago when it ran out of reserves. Fifteen deputies met at the home of Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Hussein in west Beirut and were expected to issue a statement calling for a truce in Lebanon. Sources at the meeting said

they endorsed a call by 23 dovish Christian deputies last week for the promotion of dialogue instead of violence. Patriarch Boutros Sfeir, who chaired the Christian meeting, and the deputies who attended failed to support demands by Aoun for the withdrawal of the estimated 40,000 Syrian soldiers in Lebanon. In Kuwait, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads an Arab League mediation committee on Lebanon, said it would propose sending an observer force to monitor a ceasefire. The committee, which has met Lebanese political and religious leaders, is due to report to an Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Tunis Wednesday. Arab observer force Sheikh Sabah last week denied Kuwaiti newspaper reports that the Arab League committee sought to assemble an Arab deterrent force to intervene in Lebanon. He told reporters Monday: "The observer force will not be a deterrent one, but rather a symbolic force assigned to oversee a ceasefire." The truce would be an interim step aimed at stabilising the situation in Lebanon until a

political solution is worked out, with provisions for arranging presidential elections and the formation of a coalition government to work out political reforms. "All Arab states will contribute to this force, both in terms of manpower and finance, and will not be confined to the six member countries forming the committee," Sheikh Sabah said. He did not say how big the observer force would be. But Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad daily said last week it would comprise 26 observers under a seven-point peace plan. Sheikh Sabah, who was due to leave for Tunis Tuesday, said the Arab League committee, which also comprises the foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria and Sudan, will meet in Tunis before the full conference to finalise its report. Gulf-based officials said the Arab League proposals included convening round-table talks after the ceasefire between all factions to work towards national reconciliation. Parliament would then meet to elect a speaker and a president committed to reforming the Christian-dominated political system.

## 18 Palestinians shot in Gaza Strip

# Israelis rampage through Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israelis rampaged through Hebron in the occupied West Bank Monday, smashing shop and car windows, and in the occupied Gaza Strip, hospitals said Israeli troops shot and wounded at least 18 Palestinians on the third successive day of heavy casualties. Arab and Jewish witnesses said Israelis broke 30 shop windows and 20 car windshields in Hebron after their three buses came under attack. The rampage through Hebron, the West Bank's second largest city and a stronghold of hardline Jewish settlers, was the second incident in three days in which Jews were accused of retaliating against Palestinians who stoned their cars. Police are questioning Jews from the Nili settlement in the West Bank suspected of setting fire to two buildings and smashing windows in the nearby village of Khirbat Saturday night. Palestinians in Hebron ran to their rooftops and shouted for help when the Israelis hurled back the stones that had struck the bus, the army and Arabs said. Troops fired tear-gas to break up the melee.

In the West Bank village of Deir Al Sudan, the army said troops shot dead a Palestinian suspected of resistance activity when he fled while being arrested overnight. In Gaza, hospital emergency rooms were filled with injured Palestinians — several of them children — and their families. Reuter journalist Taher Shriteh said. Mothers searched for their missing sons, believing they might be injured. Half of those hurt during clashes between troops and stone-throwing protesters in Gaza were shot with rubber-coated round metal bullets. Casualties have been unusually high in Gaza since the start of the fasting month of Ramadan April 7. At least 38 were wounded Sunday and 18 Saturday. An unofficial count by Reuters put the Gaza casualties at eight killed and 137 wounded by army gunfire since April 7. A doctor at Ahli hospital, Kamili Al Ajadba, told Reuters: "We have begun receiving many casualties under 16 years old. The Jews are now trying to terrify the new generation." An Israeli army officer, meanwhile, was convicted of stoning

Palestinian vehicles in the village of Beit Sahour where he was posted as a lookout, the army announced Monday. An army spokesman would not give the officer's name and rank or say what his punishment was. Army radio said he was given a 42-day suspended sentence. The army later confirmed that "a couple of Israelis" attacked cars and shops in Hebron. Arab reporters said the Israelis smashed all the windows in at least 15 cars and a Hebron shopkeeper said six stores in the city were damaged. "Some youths stoned the bus, and most of the Israelis in the buses got out carrying clubs and iron bars and started smashing the cars parked in the street," the shopkeeper, Marwan Abu Shaloun, said. I went to one man and tried to stop him from smashing my car, but a soldier ordered me back to my shop," he said. Israeli army radio said the Israelis were hikers from the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva. There were no injuries in the incident, the spokesman said, but the army declared a curfew on the city of 79,000 ordering residents to remain indoors.

## Palestinians say polls should herald state

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Prominent Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories told Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita Monday they would agree to elections as a first step to a Palestinian state. Ten activists from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip met de Mita and later hinted to reporters they might rethink their rejection of elections under Israeli occupation provided a subsequent troop withdrawal was agreed in advance. "We said we are not against the principle of elections but we can't accept the conditions as set down by (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," said leading nationalist Faisal Al Hussein. Shamir, in a plan disclosed this month in the United States, proposed elections in the occupied areas to choose Palestinians who would negotiate an interim period of self-rule with Israel. The Palestine Liberation Organisation has not ruled out elections but set the conditions of international supervision and

Israeli troop withdrawal. "We told Mr. de Mita that if there is a package deal of more than one step and at the end we saw there was a Palestinian state, then it is not so important if the elections are the first step or the second or third. If there is no such complete package then we can accept elections only after an end to occupation," Hussein said. He declined to go into details but newspaper editor Hanna Siniora also spoke of a "process of withdrawal of forces. Israeli officials have said the notion of withdrawing forces before elections was a 'non-starter,' adding that Washington agreed. The Palestinians said de Mita, told them he believed Shamir's proposal was ambiguous but worthy of study. Arab Journalists Association head Radwan Abu Ayyash said: "Mr. de Mita said elections might at least make the process move forward." Another participant, Hikmet

Al Masri of Nablus, said Palestinians wanted to know the final result of Shamir's plan before agreeing to take part in elections. "If we know that the elections will end in establishment of a Palestinian state, we agree to it," said Masri, head of the board of trustees of Al Najah University. Gabi Baramki, acting president of Birzeit University in the West Bank, called on Italy to press for reopening the schools and colleges for more than 300,000 Palestinian students who have been out of classes for most of the 16-month uprising. "Italy has cultural and educational relations with Israel," Baramki said. "Italians must threaten to break these links until Israel opens the schools and universities." De Mita's meeting with the Palestinians followed a tour of Jerusalem's Old City. He held a luncheon meeting later with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. He also met with Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

## Syria to attend Morocco summit

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Syria will attend an emergency Arab summit in Morocco next month, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Monday. Sharaa did not answer directly when asked whether Damascus would agree to Egypt's presence at the summit, which has been called by King Hassan of Morocco. But he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM that Syria saw relations with Egypt developing satisfactorily and positively. The emergency summit will also try to seek an end to Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war in addition to discussing developments in the Palestinian problem. Sharaa said Syria does not want Egypt to attend the proposed summit on Lebanon, but would not object to its participation in future Arab summits.

Sharaa confirmed Syria's participation in the summit Monday before leaving for a two-day visit to India. Asked by the UAE agency whether Syria would object to Egypt's participation at the summit, Sharaa said: "Syria views relations with Egypt as developing positively and satisfactorily." But Sharaa confirmed reports of a Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement following mediation efforts.

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## Qatanani briefs peace group

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing an international peace group now visiting Jordan was briefed on the Kingdom's services provided to the residents of the Palestinian refugee camps.

The group, which represents Pax World Foundation/Peace Link, met with Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department with whom its members discussed the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, according to an official statement Monday.

The statement said that Qatanani reviewed with the 20-member group the general conditions of the Palestinians under Israeli

rule and the sufferings under occupation. He said that the government was providing continued assistance to the Palestinian people now involved in the intifada against occupation; and also to the residents of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Qatanani answered questions put to him by the group members about the Palestine question.

The delegation which has been here for the past two days will cross into the occupied Arab territories Tuesday and will return to Jordan following their tour of the Arab areas under Israeli rule.



Ahmad Qatanani

## Government encourages more rural development corporations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Monday announced that it was taking steps to encourage the establishment of development corporations in various towns similar to the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) which is operated on voluntary basis.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Marwan Hmoud, chaired a meeting to discuss steps that should be taken in this direction, and to assess the SDC's progress and achievements.

The meeting which was attended by senior ministry officials and heads of development corporations in Salt, Irbid, Fuhis and Zarqa looked into measures that could be taken to encourage various towns and villages to establish corporations which could build strong bridges of cooperation with the local population and help municipalities carry out various schemes.

The meeting discussed incentives to be given to corporations in order to assist them to carry

out socio-economic projects and help the municipalities' construction programmes.

The minister stressed that these voluntary institutions helped municipalities to develop their services and contributed towards rural areas development. Hmoud called for periodic meetings between the corporations themselves to exchange views about

programmes.

The meeting also discussed the idea of setting up a consultative council and amendments to laws benefiting these corporations. The meeting decided that the heads of the four corporations pay visits to the SDC and examine its programmes and activities.

## 2 Islamic meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open two seminars in June one dealing with studies and research work in Islamic fields and the other dealing with patterns of living in Islamic nations.

According to Sawt Al Shaab daily, the first seminar aims at increasing interaction among Islamic institutions and scholars and further cooperation in improving the conditions of Islamic societies with the application of modern science and technology. Various Islamic organisations

from the Arab and Islamic world have been invited to take part in the five-day meeting.

According to the paper, the second seminar which has been organised by the World Health Organisation's regional office deals with various living patterns and behaviours in the Islamic world and means of disposing of bad customs and adopting a set of rules for an ideal society.

At least 57 scholars and intellectuals will take part in the second seminar which will be held at the Regency Hotel in Amman.

## AILF pledges full support for Palestine

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The central council of the Arab International Labour Federation (AILF) has issued a statement voicing its full support for the Palestine state and said that it would launch a campaign to back the Palestinian intifada in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement, following the conclusion of the council's three-day meeting in Amman said that the backing to the Palestinians would mainly go to the labour unions and union leaders. The council backing will be moral and financial and at the international level, the statement noted.

The council members held discussions on labour issues in the Arab World and those in the Israeli-held Arab territories and announced that Egypt's labour federation will be reinstated as a full fledged member in the federation.

The federation of the Jordanian labour unions and those of Djibouti and North Yemen also have been accepted as fully-fledged members in the federation, according to the statement.

The council discussed matters that would be included in the agenda of the federation's eighth meeting to be held in Algiers.

## India, Jordan open trade talks in New Delhi

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian economic and trade delegation opened talks in New Delhi Monday with Indian officials and businessmen in preparation for a round table meeting to be held in Amman in June to discuss Jordanian-Indian economic and trade cooperation.

The Jordanian team is led by Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, who said the two sides

attached great importance to the preparatory meetings and the round table conference which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The round table meeting, which is scheduled for June 12 and 13, is designed as a first step in pursuing Jordanian-Indian endeavours for stimulating trade and boosting cooperation in the economic and industrial fields.

## Land ownership studied

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University announced Monday that it has just completed a month-long study on disintegration of land ownership in the Zarqa River basin.

A statement issued by the university's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology which conducted the study, said that four researchers conducted surveys in the villages of Aalouk, Bani Hassan and Rumeimin, all within the basin's area.

The study included a census and a comprehensive survey with

regard to the local residents' living conditions and the types of crops they grow.

The study also entailed an examination of the patterns of agricultural and economic activities conducted by the local people. According to the statement, the researchers submitted their findings to the Ministry of Agriculture which is currently carrying out land development projects in the Zarqa River basin in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies.



Director of the Iraqi Fund for Development Faq (second from right) Monday sign minutes of trade talks between Iraq and Jordan (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Iraq conclude talks, sign minutes

AMMAN (Petra) — An Iraqi-Jordanian committee assigned the task of following up the implementation of projects programmed set by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee wound up a meeting in Amman Monday and signed the minutes of its deliberations; an official statement following the closing session said that the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in commercial, industrial and agricultural fields and looked into measures to promote cooperation in health, air transport, agricultural marketing and railways as well as contracting operations in both countries.

The Jordanian side to the meeting stressed the need for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. The

statement noted that Iraq and Jordan will set up fairs in Amman and Baghdad to help promote the sale of national products.

In this respect an Iraqi fair will be organised in Amman in the autumn of 1989 and a Jordanian fair will be held in Baghdad in September 1989, and will be allowed to sell directly to the public and to Iraqi companies.

In industry, the two sides agreed on measures to speed up the application of unified standards and specifications and will exchange expertise and ideas on industry-related affairs.

Iraq has expressed readiness to contribute to the phosphoric acid project at the Shidieh phosphate mine and will acquire a 30 per cent share in that project.

Both sides agreed on launching cooperation in agricultural fields specially in improving crop production, combating pests like desert locusts and irrigation schemes.

The committee decided that agricultural products of both countries be given priority and

preference in national markets. It also called for speeding up the process of linking the national grids and review, for example, land transport.

The two sides expressed a common wish to speed up the project linking Baghdad with Amman and decided to set up a working team to follow up the implementation of the project's studies in six months. The committee recommended that contacts be made with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance the studies whose cost is expected to reach \$1 million.

In health affairs, the two sides decided to exchange information and expertise in laboratory hospitals and training of medical cadres.

The minutes were signed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf and Faq Abdul Ras, director of the Iraqi Fund for Development.

## Troubadours hit Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Princess Alia Al Faisal, the French Cultural Centre in collaboration with the National Music Conservatory, presents the Group Rosamonda who has been singing Troubadour poetry for more than 10 years. Troubadour culture is brought back to life through the new music.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, these "finders" from the south of France were the inventors of a new poetic style based on a new culture founded on *le Fin'amor* (courtly love). If they were influenced by the traditional background of erotic, satiric, and bacchic songs composed in Latin, they soon gave up this language and decided to sing in a common language ("Language of Occ") and make of love the condition of

all virtues.

This cultural revolution quickly spread all over the Occident. Their texts were sung in England and in Portugal for the king of Hungary's court as well as king of France's.

But how can we sing the Troubadour texts 7 centuries after? Gerard Zurhetho, singer of the troupe, said:

of the phrases and on the doubted influence of Me Spain with perfect knowledge. Troubadour culture is a great expressiveness and passion, sometimes languorous and fascinating.

He performs with 3 excellent musicians, Jacques Khoudir, Patrick Font, and Fabrice Briant who is a medieval lutanist and maker of the group's instruments.



Asia, Abdul Karim and their son Ra'd at their home in Marka in a recent photo taken by Hind Lara Mango



Asia and Abdul Karim wed at Al Hussein Society in 1986. His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid attended

## Living with an otherwise avoidable disability

By Hind Lara Mango

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There has been recent panic in Jordan concerning certain diseases such as Meningitis and Polio, both of which are fatal if contracted and may result in death.

"Rumours were that we, in

Jordan, were going to get the Polio virus from the West Bank where it was attacking many," said Dr. Janir Halazon, a paediatrician and hematologist in Amman. "Jordan's population is very well vaccinated," he explained, "and the government is making sure that poor rural areas where there is a high possibility of acquiring

the virus, are made aware of the importance of vaccination. In endemic areas such as the West Bank extra precautions are taken. Children are usually vaccinated at an early age, but in the case of infected areas, a baby is given an extra Polio vaccine as soon as he is born," said Halazon.

Polio virus infections are common only among human beings and the most susceptible victims are infants and young children living in conditions of poor hygiene. Halazon confirms that Polio has been eradicated in Jordan because of the social awareness campaigns carried out by the Ministry of Health. "The ministry has reached many people in the rural areas, and more than 98 per cent of the children there have been vaccinated."

There are many types of Polio: the abortive, nonparalytic (aseptic Meningitis) and the paralytic disease involving the nervous system. "If an infected child is lucky, he or she will have only one limb paralysed, the lucky ones survive and the unlucky ones die."

Asia and Abdul Karim Al 'Asal are Polio victims. Both contracted the disease as children of less than one year. The reason was their parents' ignorance of the importance of vaccination. Asia is now 24 years old and will always carry the scars of Polio — the whole of her right leg is paralysed. However, Abdul Karim, now 35 years old, did not escape as easily as Asia; both his legs are paralysed and he cannot get by without the aid of a wheelchair.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, both Asia and Abdul Karim told the story of how they managed to cope with the demands of every day life, society and other issues that caused them considerable stress because of their handicaps.

"I'm a young man who is handicapped in some way, Asia

needed to feel independent and productive. In order to accomplish her aims, she first took up a three months' typing course. However, when she mastered this skill and started looking for a job, she found it to be a hopeless case. Not one to give up easily, Asia took up another course in maintaining foot braces at Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. She continued with this job for two years until she got married.

Abdul Karim attended many centres, including the Bethlehem Foundation, where he got his education. When he was 16 years old, he went to Egypt to learn rehabilitation methods, but found life there very difficult. After coming back to Jordan, he learnt the trade of jewellery-making, but because of his disability he could not find a job. Forced to stay at home with a growing sense of anger and frustration, Abdul Karim began to observe the aeroplanes and helicopters that used to take off and land at the airport near his house. As a result, he started to fiddle around with spare metal parts and constructed electrical toy helicopters which he sold at bazaars.

But the income that came from selling these toys was hardly enough for him to survive. So he made himself a special bicycle with which he could move around more easily and have a bigger chance of finding a job. "I wanted to feel independent like any other man," he said remembering all the trauma and hardships he had faced. At home, he had constant clashes with his father. He wanted to work while his father feared that he would get hurt. "But I got my way," said Abdul Karim with a devilish smile of satisfaction.

The stubborn and persistent young man finally found a job in a bakery for a salary of JD per month. His colleagues used to

constantly tease him about his disability, and treat him in a demeaning manner. He eventually left that job and worked ever since as a telephone operator at a health centre in Jabal Al Nasser. "They treat me there as their equal and with the epitome of politeness. I do not get the feeling of being some sort of alien anymore."

Even though he had his bicycle, Abdul Karim could not go everywhere on it. He sometimes needed public transportation which proved to be a great disappointment. With an incomprehensible shake of his head, he remembers how he was not allowed to go into the "Service" (sharing taxi) because of his chair. The drivers complained that there was no room for it, and they were unwilling to listen to him when he told them that it was collapsible. "Whenever they saw me waving to them to stop, they would speed up and pass me by," he said.

After a lot of hard work, Abdul Karim saved up JD 400 and decided to buy a car made especially for the disabled. With the help of his relatives and various organisations, he bought the car for JD 600.

"My life changed completely after that. No longer was the notion of going to buy bread a nightmare, I was able to move about like everyone else, and the days of being snubbed by bus and taxi drivers were over for me!"

During social visits to his friends at Al Hussein Society he met Asia, now his wife.

Both praise Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'd and Princess M.ijda, the presidents of the society, for the tremendous amount of help that they gave the newly married couple. The expenses of the wedding ceremony, which took place at the

Following this event was the birth of their son, Ra'd. He was delivered by Caesarean section. But other than that, everything was normal. During this interview with the proud parents, the hyper infant, who is now nearly two years of age, would not stop running around the demanding to be lifted onto his father's lap. It is quite obvious that Ra'd is "the apple of his parent's eyes," as the saying goes!

The couple live in a small two-bedroom apartment in Marka. "We have all that we need. Our place is not very big and luxurious, but it is enough for us, and we are happy," said Asia.

With their marriage and newborn son, Abdul Karim's salary of JD 80 was not enough. An amount of JD 45 was spent on gas for the car, and what remained was not enough for them to live on. Both came up with the idea of opening a small shop in their home. Unfortunately, permission for this venture was not granted. So they thought of opening a butcher's shop, but this was going to cost them even more money. Asia sold her jewellery, and they got a loan for paying the necessary instalments for the place. The butchery has not lived up to their expectations in terms of the profit that it makes, but they are satisfied with it.

Presently, Asia is channelling all of her energy into keeping up with her very active son. Later on, she thinks that she will have to continue working, but for now she is dedicating herself to being a wife, mother, and taking care of their home. She said: "Every housewife has problems, and I am no exception. When faced with these difficulties, I either solve them myself or ask my nephew for help — he lives next door. It has not been easy for us. We are trying to survive, and make life more enjoyable."

## Many reasons for pastures shortage

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pasture lands in Jordan are limited and insufficient for breeding great numbers of livestock but there are good areas of land which can easily be turned into useful pasture land to make up for this shortage, according to Ghalib Abu Arrabi, director of the afforestation and range department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

He said in a recent interview with the Al Ra'i Arabic daily that despite this obstacle existing pasture land provides for nearly 70 per cent of the needs of goats, sheep and camels in the Kingdom, although less than 200 millimetres of water fall on this land in the winter season.

Abu Arrabi attributed the meagre areas of pasture land in Jordan to the following reasons:

— Early grazing when animals are allowed to graze in areas with no fully grown grass, uprooting and burning shrubs or small trees to be used as fuel.

— The spread of machinery and the extensive use of vehicles to transport sheep which led to the damage of the pasture lands, poor rainfall, development of land for growing crops and fruit trees, and the expansion in building operations which caused the pasture land to shrink.

Abu Arrabi said that so far nearly 20 per cent of pasture lands have been swallowed up by buildings and factories.

Abu Arrabi proposed sowing large areas of land with seeds to increase the vegetation, planting shrubs for land reclamation

The 1986-1990 five year plan of the Ministry of Agriculture, envisaged four large pasture projects, together covering 250,000 dunums.

The plan is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, according to Abu Arrabi, who added that saplings of shrubs are being distributed free to the farmers to help increase pasture lands and veterinary services are also offered free by the ministry to help increase the livestock wealth in the Kingdom.

Abu Arrabi noted that the ministry is going ahead with a project for producing lean meat in cooperation with the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO). He said that the project entails planting 100,000 dunums of land shrubs and seeds to produce pastures. The WFP, he added, is providing food supplies to local farmers whose land is developed within this project programme which also involves five other countries in the World: Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria.

According to Abu Arrabi, WFP has now selected 10,000 dunums of land in a district some 40 km southwest of Amman for pilot project. The project involves planting cattle and sheep increasing land area for pasture.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by French artist Jean-Francois Noble at Haya Arts Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architectural Development in European Cities," displaying photos depicting architectural development since medieval ages, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architecture in Jordanian Countryside" by Ammar Khammash at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of books and handicrafts at Princess Alia College.
- ★ A scientific book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tübingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Goethe Institute.

#### RAMADAN SOUQ

- ★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuffs, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- ★ International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

#### FILMS

- ★ An Iraqi film entitled "Two Faces" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 9:00 p.m.
- ★ A documentary of Southern California shown as part of the American Centre's programme "Portrait of America" — 4:00 p.m.

#### THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "A Minister in Love" shown as part of the cultural festival of the Jordanian community colleges, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

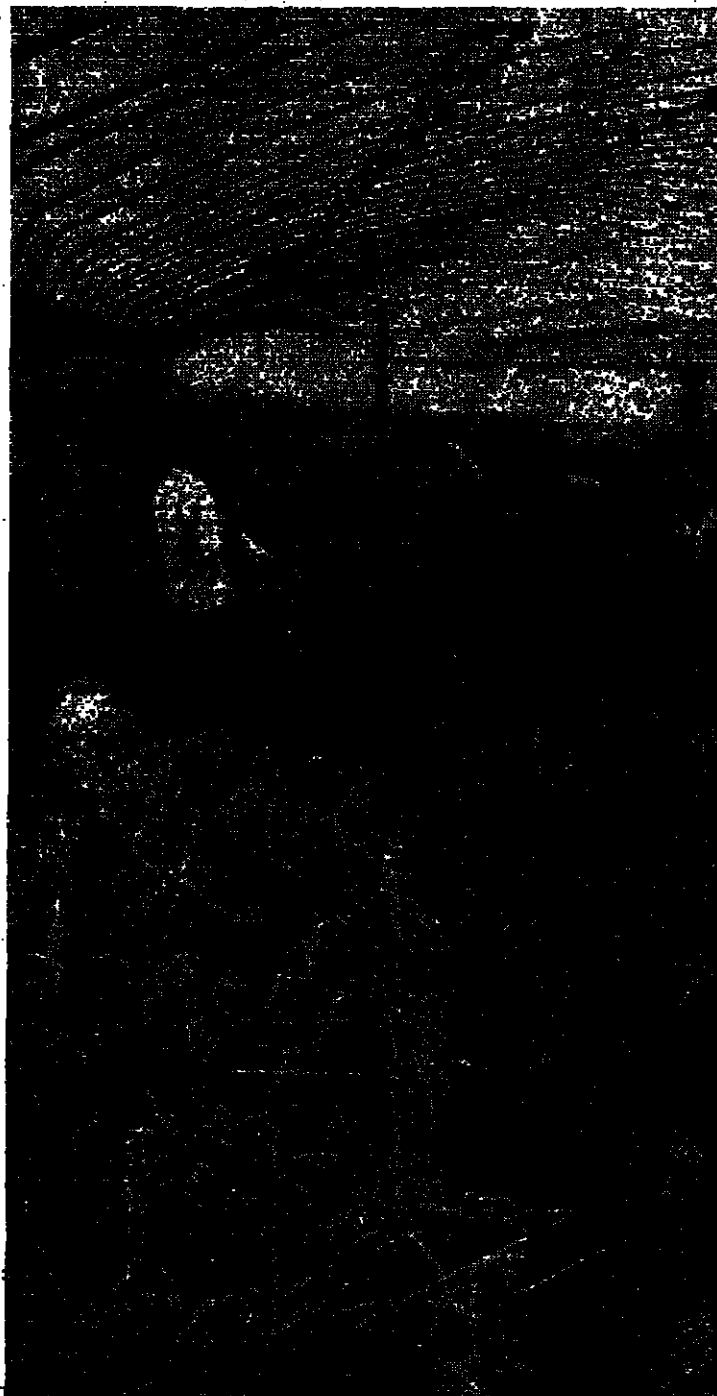
#### LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled "Nuclear Winter" by Dr. Adel Jarrar at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

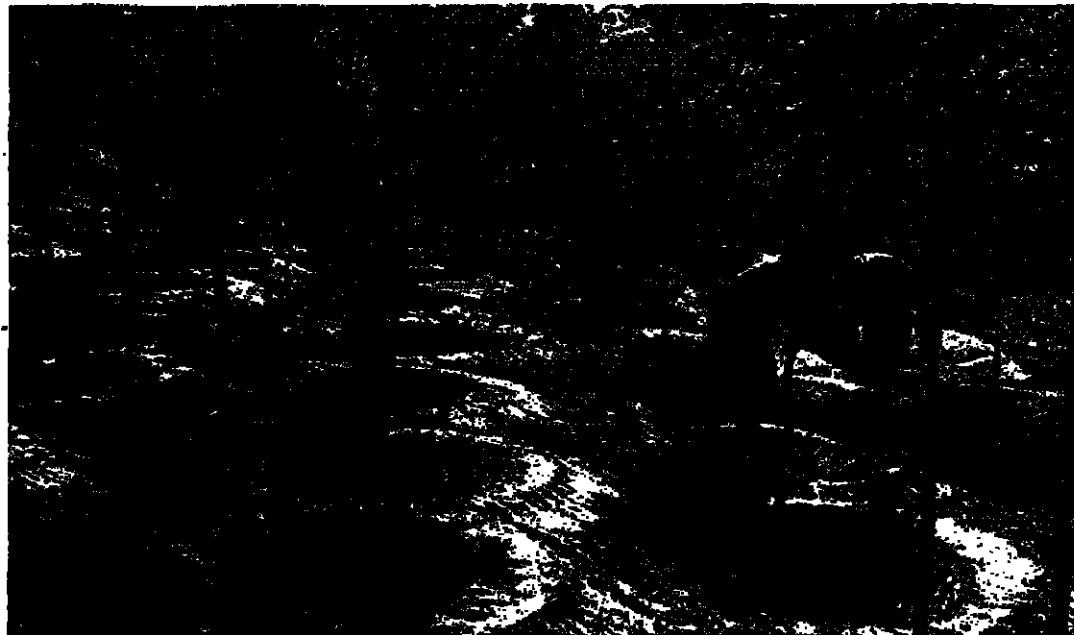








Workers examine hybrid rice in a research centre in Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province.



Although rich in flora and fauna as well as mineral resources which are now grown on former barren land, China's cultivated land area continues to drop.



## China's shrinking cropland and failing water supplies

By Ni Shaoxiang

NANJING — Helter-skelter urbanisation, the proliferation of small-scale rural cottage industries, and economic reforms have led to China's total cultivated land area dropping by around 15 million hectares since 1957. Cultivated land continues to shrink, on average, by some 520,000 hectares a year, a manifestation of the demands that rapid population growth has made on China's resources.

Presently, the amount of cultivated land per head is a mere 0.13 hectares, half of what it was in 1949. In nine provinces the cultivated land area is less than 0.07 hectares per person, below what is necessary for self-sustaining

agriculture.

The growth of towns and cities, along with 'rural industries' have combined to accelerate China's loss of agricultural land. Currently there are some 1.6 million rural or 'township enterprises' employing around 70 million workers. Furthermore, China's 407 cities and 11,103 towns are expected to grow faster than rural regions.

Another factor that works against Chinese agriculture is the great increase in rural housing units. Between 1985 and 1986 an additional 1.7 billion square metres of rural housing were built.

The most serious loss of cropland, however, is taking place in coastal areas. As in other Asian

countries, China's coastal population is burgeoning. In general the coasts have higher population densities and lower amount of cultivated land per person than other parts of the country.

China's increasing population has also put a strain on water resources. In the first place there are only 2,700 cubic metres of fresh water available per person, one quarter of the world's average. As a result water shortages have become commonplace in some areas. According to a 1985 survey, 183 cities (out of 324) were found to be in water deficit, with 40 cities put on the critical list. The water shortfall for these cities amounts to around 20 million cubic metres per day.

It has been estimated that in

the dry north-west region of China some 40 million people, along with 30 million domestic animals, suffer from a shortage of potable water. About 93 million hectares of rangeland in northern China lack adequate rainfall. As a result, increasing amounts of groundwater are being pumped to the surface for use in agriculture and industry, a practice that is depleting China's groundwater aquifers. In several regions of northern China, the groundwater table is falling at the rate of 4-5 metres a year, creating surface subsidence in cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Xi'an.

A number of ambitious programmes has been launched to deal with the country's extensive

resource degradation. First, more attention is being paid to the important links between population, resources and the environment. Government officials are beginning to see the necessity of balancing economic development with resource conservation and environmental management.

Second, family planning services have been given more muscle so that an attempt can be made to adhere to the target of a population of 1.2 billion by 2000.

Third, laws and regulations governing the conservation and management of China's resources have been strengthened and put into effect. A new law on 'Land Resources Management' has managed to reduce the amount of

agricultural land taken out of production. Agricultural chemicals are also being regulated.

The management of environmental activities has been reorganised. For example, the Bureau of Territory was set up in 1981. Its main task is to develop, exploit in a sustainable manner, and protect, the country's resources.

Lastly, the management of resources in key regions, such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan region, the Shanghai-Hangzhou-Nanjing region, the Pearl River Delta Region, and several with fragile ecological environments like the Loess Plateau, have been given priority. Planning on a regional level is now possible. — People News.

## Safe motherhood in Africa

By Eilif Litsberg

NIAMEY — Health workers, representatives of women's organisations and policy-makers from 22 French-speaking African countries, meeting in Niamey, the capital city of Niger, have called on the international community to help governments to halve the appalling toll of 150,000 women who die in Africa each year from complications of pregnancy and delivery.

In northern Europe 10 women die out of every 100,000 who give birth, whereas in Africa the figure is about 700 out of every 100,000, giving Africa the sad record of the highest maternal death rate in the world. And for every woman who dies, many more remain permanently handicapped.

After three days of technical discussions, representatives to the Conference on Safe Motherhood, held in late January, were joined by their Ministers of Health, and by delegates from the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who jointly sponsored the conference, from other U.N. agencies and from non-govern-

ment organisations such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Alarming data were presented at Niamey, but it was one particular story which brought home the fact that maternal mortality in Africa is really "the shame of modern times", as expressed by one of the delegates. A video produced by WHO follows a woman on her road to death, where many opportunities for saving her life are missed.

Like so many African women, Mrs X was severely anaemic due to parasitic infections and malnutrition. She had been through seven pregnancies and did not really want another child. She lived in a small village and was poor and illiterate. She and her husband had never practised family planning — and inevitably she had become pregnant again. She had no medical check-up during the pregnancy; there was no dispensary within reach.

When the birth began, an old neighbour was called in to assist. She did not understand the danger when Mrs X started bleeding profusely. Only after an hour, when Mrs X had become very feeble, did she arrange to send her to the district hospital, with

the help of willing neighbours. The ox cart, humping along on a dirt road, took two hours, and on arrival Mrs. X was unconscious. She went immediately for an emergency operation, and needed blood, but the half a litre in the hospital refrigerator was not enough to save her life.

The midwives and doctors attending the conference had, most likely, all witnessed similar tragedies. "Why," asked one of them, "is it only now that this scandal of the century is brought to light?" There were two reasons: first, only recently had studies undertaken by WHO and others shown the true extent of the problem. Second, according to a physician, pregnancy-related deaths had for long been considered part of the normal state of affairs in Africa. When he had worked in Europe, he said, "every single case of maternal death would be discussed for hours, and sometimes for days, in order to find out what had gone wrong, and to put matters right to avoid similar dramas in the future."

"The real reason," said a woman doctor, "is that we African women need to assert ourselves as women, rather than only as wives and mothers."

"Twenty-five to 50 per cent of maternal mortality is caused by illegal abortion," said Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA. "Abortion is not a family planning method. However, one of the best ways to prevent it is by providing adequate family planning services."

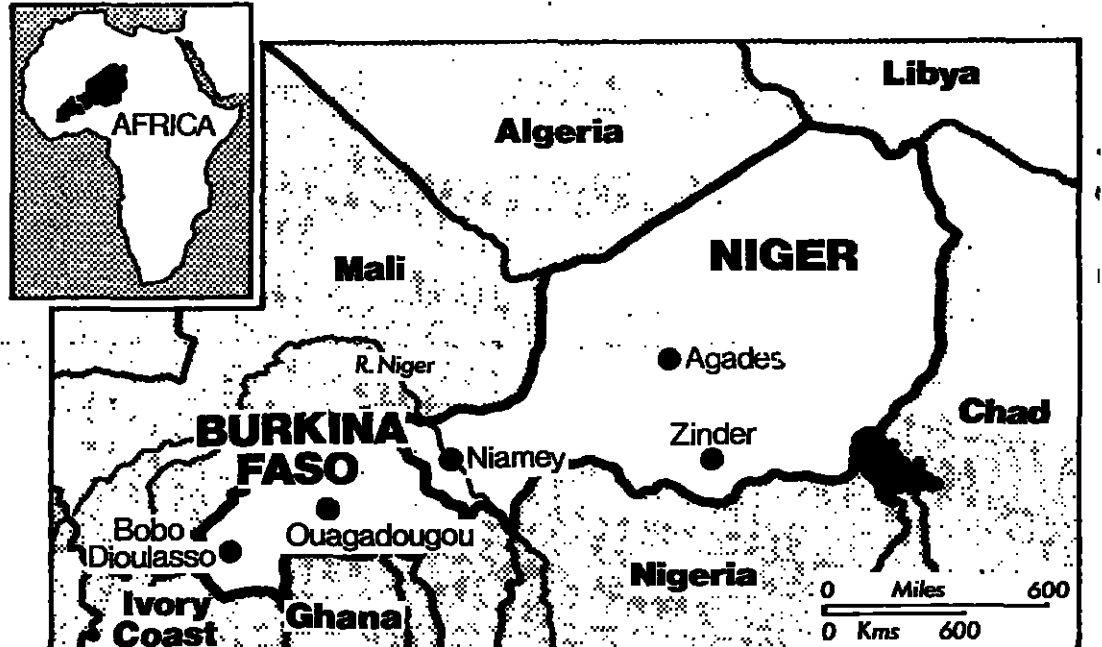
Dr. Sadik felt that women should not be pressurised to be in a continuous state of pregnancy. "Spacing of births should not be mixed up with other issues and given political and religious overtones." Doubts had been raised whether it was at all possible for women alone to change the situation. Dr. Sadik agreed that the whole value system would have to be changed. "However," she said, "Women must also change: they are the ones who transmit the old, traditional values to both their sons and their daughters. Only information and education can change this."

The status of African women as reflected in, for example, their access to education, was an important factor. And, according to Edward Jaycox, Vice-President of the World Bank, the African mother produces 80 per cent of the food eaten, but her own nutritional needs are often not

met. Some traditional practices were also described as dangerous to health, such as food taboos and female circumcision.

In spite of great efforts over the last 10 years to provide primary health care in Africa, maternal health services are sorely lacking. Only 36 per cent of deliveries are assisted by a trained health worker. Essential health care, including mother and child health care and family planning, is needed at village level. That has to be backed up by small maternity units and hospitals that can take care of complications and deal with high-risk cases. As a minimum requirement they should be able to deal with delayed and obstructed labour, including Caesarean section, and give anaesthetics and blood transfusions.

A number of projects in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and elsewhere had shown that great improvements can be attained if local communities are mobilised, health care workers retrained, and a minimum of resources made available. The World Bank has estimated that the investment of \$1 per head in health care would reduce maternal mortality by 20 per cent, and \$2 by two-thirds. The declaration issued at the



end of the conference appealed for efforts to cut maternal mortality and morbidity by half by the year 2000. "Is that a realistic aim?" asked Dr. Abdelmoumene of WHO. "Technically," he went on, "it is certainly possible, as shown in Costa Rica, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Cuba, Egypt and, in particular, China." As to the political feasibility, it was up to each country to give the answer. Was it possible from a financial point of view? With many African countries presently facing an economic crisis, he said, considerable external funding would be necessary.

Will the international community wake up to its responsibility and show its solidarity with Africa and its women by producing the resources? And will African society at large, its health workers and in particular its women, rise to the task of ensuring safe motherhood? Judging from the emotional energy, the frank talk and enlightened thinking at the conference, there is great hope for the future. — People News.

## India — a land of contrasts

By Diana Dixon

INDIA is a land of contrasts; incredible beauty and urban squalor; one of the fifteen most industrialised nations in the world and the fifteenth poorest; in some years the hottest place on earth — the Thar desert in Rajasthan, and the wettest — Assam. India, the birthplace of Buddhism and Hinduism; the country with twenty official languages.

In the 41 years since India became independent, enormous progress has been made; foreign trade has greatly expanded and significant increases have been made in the production of steel, power, cement, oil, fertiliser and other resources.

India is one of the few countries in the developing world that produces enough food for its needs and which can call on its own food reserves in emergencies. While proud of its efforts to become self-sufficient, it has welcomed outside assistance for development projects in order to banish the spectre of poverty from its streets and countryside. Three hundred million people do not earn enough money to buy sufficient food for themselves and their families — millions are homeless, with no access to safe drinking water or an education.

WFP and India signed their first project agreement in 1963 — the same year the Programme was formed — and have progressed together. In the last 25 years WFP has supported Indian projects for livestock and fisheries development, forestry, irrigation, watershed management, rural development and resettlement; school feeding; assistance to women and children; and disaster

relief. WFP is helping India to fight soil erosion and deforestation. Many of the disasters that India faces stem from the damage to the environment caused by the loss of forests. Only 19.5 per cent of the land is under forest cover, compared to the 33 per cent needed to maintain an ecological balance in the country.

To reverse this trend the government has launched large-scale tree-planting and afforestation programmes. WFP supports these by giving food to workers engaged in planting, nursery and forest management tasks. In return, the workers make a small contribution from their wages to a fund to provide schools, clean drinking water and other community services.

Government irrigation schemes aim to increase agricultural output. Workers on the Indira Gandhi Nahar canal have been receiving WFP assistance since 1968. This canal, which stretches across the Thar desert in Rajasthan, will eventually bring more than 1.5 million hectares of land under irrigation.

Food rations are also distributed throughout the country by the Integrated Child Development Services which provides immunisation, health check-ups, nutrition and health education for women, and non-formal education for 3-6 year olds. The women and children who attend the centres are given cooked meals to improve their nutritional status and act as an incentive to attend and benefit from the health services offered.

India is not just a recipient of WFP food aid but also an important donor. In the last 25 years

India has supplied \$11 million of tea, sugar, dried fish and rice to WFP to help the people of other countries.

The problems remaining are enormous; the population is more than 750 million and if the current growth rate continues, by the year 2112 India will have over-

taken China to become the most populous country in the world.

To provide the minimum requirements — jobs, food, housing — for this number of people is a daunting task that will need the continuing help of organisations such as WFP for many years to come.



Cinema Tel: 677420

**CONCORD**

**THE BOSS WIFE**

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573

**OPERA**

**BOB GOLD THWAIT IN BURGLAR**

Performances 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

**PLAZA**

**HART TAKE TO HOWAY**

Performances 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



# Gulf Arab officials to discuss common oil policy tomorrow

**ABU DHABI (R)** — Gulf Arab oil producers will meet in Jeddah Wednesday to seek a common policy on prices and production ahead of OPEC's key June meeting, oil industry sources said.

"The (Gulf oil) ministers' tackling of the oil market situation will be of extreme importance in determining the basic trends to be discussed at OPEC's next June meeting," the official United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM said Monday.

The Jeddah meeting will bring together six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and non-OPEC Oman and Bahrain — which between them hold over 40 per cent of the world's oil reserves.

"The committee will discuss GCC proposals on efforts to be taken collectively to achieve stability in oil prices in the world market and to unify the stands of GCC members in OPEC," the Qatari News Agency said Sunday.

Oil industry analysts in the Gulf said the six GCC states

would work on a common production and price policy for the rest of the year, ahead of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting.

GCC oil ministers shaped the outlines of OPEC's November 1988 output pact at a meeting last October in Riyadh, oil industry executives said.

OPEC agreed then to limit total output to 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d) for the first half of 1989 and oil prices have since risen more than \$7 a barrel.

WAM said OPEC is expected to raise its ceiling by one million b/d to 19.5 million in June.

Among points the GCC states will confront ahead of the OPEC meeting are:

— Whether to back an increase in total OPEC output for the rest of the year, as this might push oil

prices down as supply to the market will rise.

— Kuwait and the UAE's requests for higher individual OPEC quotas. Both countries regard their current 1.037 million and 988,000 b/d quotas as inadequate relative to their reserves and output capacities.

— Ways of convincing Iran to support an increase in the OPEC ceiling. Tehran wants high prices with limited OPEC output to earn hard cash for its post Gulf war reconstruction.

— How to distribute any increase agreed in the OPEC ceiling.

Kuwait and the UAE produced above their quotas in March at 1.35 million b/d and 1.4 million b/d respectively, according to a Reuters survey.

Iran's Tehran Times newspaper said earlier this month that quota violators within OPEC should not be awarded higher ceilings.

**Unstable prices**

Meanwhile, the manager of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) predicted in a

report released Sunday that oil prices will remain unstable for several years but will not collapse as they did in 1986.

"As I look to the future, I see several more years of weak and volatile prices," Suhail Faris Al Mazouzi said in the report marking the 17th anniversary of ADNOC's foundation.

But Mazouzi, who is also secretary general of Abu Dhabi's Supreme Oil Council, said he did not expect that prices would tumble below \$10 a barrel as they did in 1986 due to OPEC overproduction.

"I am encouraged by the fact that world oil consumption is starting to increase again at rates we haven't seen in a decade," he said, but gave no figures.

"At present prices, other forms of energy are having difficulty competing," Mazouzi said.

"So, although in the short term I believe the price situation will remain uncomfortable, I see it in positive terms as a means of guaranteeing our long-term survival," he concluded.

## 'Angry Consumers Association' calls for boycott of Algerian food shops

**ALGIERS (R)** — A group calling itself the "Angry Consumers Association" called Monday for a national boycott of food shops in Algeria in an effort to drive down soaring prices.

The official Algerian news agency APS said the association, based in the western town of Oran, urged people to boycott red meat, fish and vegetables for four days starting Thursday.

Consumer groups have already staged shopping strikes in several towns, including Algiers, Oran and Tizi Ouzou, after the prices of meat and vegetables doubled or tripled in two weeks.

The main labour federation, the Union General des Travailleurs Algériens, said it would support the national food strike, APS reported.

Reports in the local media sug-

gest protests against high prices are gathering momentum. Two days ago 52 irate shoppers were arrested after they wrecked a market at Afou and trampled on the food.

Algeria was rocked last October by riots sparked by economic hardships, high prices and shortages. Analysts say there could be a repetition unless discontent is rapidly defused.

In an unusually frank diagnosis of Algeria's economic problems, APS said earlier the weakness of the dinar was one of the main reasons for the wave of popular protests.

"The dinar is not at all well. It is sick, seriously sick," APS said. "It is obvious from the crazy surge in prices and exchange rates on the black market."

The agency said the French

franc cost five dinars on the black market, compared to an official rate of 1.15 dinars.

The situation was aggravated by rising unemployment, galloping population growth and the development of chronic shortages.

Shortages had stimulated the black market, APS said, while the development of ostentatious signs of wealth was incompatible with the continuous degradation of the purchasing power of people on fixed incomes.

APS said bureaucracy in the public sector, which accounts for three quarters of the gross domestic product (GDP), was largely to blame, but the small private sector was not without guilt because tax evasion and fraud were rife.

Even before the latest in-

creases, consumer prices had risen on average by 46.7 per cent a year since 1985 because of a lack of hard currency due to a dramatic fall in oil revenues.

"For political reasons it was impossible to impose further austerity measures," APS said, clearly referring to the danger of a repetition of the October riots.

But it said the government of Prime Minister Kasbi Merbah would cut this year's budget deficit to 1.9 per cent of GDP from five per cent last year, limit money supply growth to 10 per cent and wage war on tax evasion and fraud.

It would also fight the black market, impose a tax on external signs of wealth and make foreign embassies, diplomats and enterprises pay for rents and services in hard currency.

## Iraq to build oil storage facilities

**BAGHDAD (Agencies)** — Iraq is to build a huge petroleum products storage complex at its southern Khor Al Zubair port on the Gulf, the state-run, English-language daily Baghdad Observer reported Monday.

It said the project will be implemented by Iraq's oil ministry with the aim of boosting the export of oil products by tankers through the Gulf.

The newspaper quoted Ali Noori Ali, director of the oil projects department at the ministry, as saying the ministry already has begun compiling the necessary equipment to implement the project, expected to be completed in 1994.

The scheme will enable Iraq to export more of its oil products from its southern refinery at Basra. All said surplus products from other refineries also would be

exported through the same port. He said the project comprises five stages including expanding oil storage capacities at the Basra refinery and the construction of a new pipeline network linking the refinery to the port which is some 80 kilometres to the south.

Ali also said the plan will include the construction of two terminals at the port, one for exporting white derivatives such as benzene, naphtha and gasoline and the other for fuel oil, lubricants and engine oils.

He did not say how much the project will cost.

Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi told reporters earlier this month that the second stage of repairing the Basra refinery would be completed soon, enabling it to produce 140,000 barrels per day of different kinds

of oil products.

The first unit started operation last month and oil officials said regular export of products have started since then from Khor Al Zubair port.

The port and the Basra facilities had been badly damaged in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

### Working 24 hours

Transport Minister Mohammad Hamza was last week quoted in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra as saying that Iraq has eight giant excavators working night and day to deepen channels linking the strategic Shatt Al Arab waterway to the Gulf.

He said that teams had reached a depth of more than eight metres but they needed to dig over three metres deeper to en-

able tankers to use the channels.

"Our workers have dug out 2.4 million cubic metres of the bed... I expect them to complete their plan to dig 42 million cubic metres by the beginning of next year," Hamza was reported as saying.

The channels — Khor Abdallah, and Khor Al Zubair — link the southern Iraqi ports of Umm Qasr and Al Zubair with the Gulf.

Hamza told the paper that other Iraqi teams were dredging the Shatt, which is central to the dispute with Iran on the terms of a permanent peace in the Gulf, following last August's ceasefire.

Iraq is demanding that the waterway should be cleared of war debris before any other elements of the peace plan can be implemented.

## Saudis double wheat prices to Gulf states

**BAHRAIN (R)** — Saudi Arabia has doubled the price of heavily-subsidised wheat exports to its Arab Gulf neighbours to near

world levels, Bahrain importers said Sunday.

Ali Yousif Fakhro, chairman of Bahrain Flour Mills Company, told Reuters under a new agreement, Bahrain and other importers in the area would pay \$160-\$180 instead of \$80 for each tonne of Saudi wheat from May onwards.

He said the price increase would not be passed on to consumers because flour was subsidised on the island, as in many other Gulf states.

Last year Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq imported around 275,000 tonnes of Saudi wheat, only a small percentage of the kingdom's 1988 crop, estimated at 3.2 million tonnes.

Industry sources said the price move reflected Saudi Arabia's concern with the \$400 a tonne subsidy it paid to big farmers.

World prices for wheat imported to the area are currently around \$175-\$180 a tonne.

Saudi Arabia slashed the subsidy from \$533 a tonne last August and ordered farmers to plant more barley, of which about four million tonnes a year is imported.

The kingdom consumes around 850,000 tonnes of wheat a year and sells most of the balance outside the Gulf at market prices

— most notably to China and the Soviet Union.

International traders said last week the kingdom had also begun selling wheat to Iran.

Bahrain imports around 70 per cent of its annual wheat requirements from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait around 50 per cent, and Qatar 10 per cent. The remainder comes from Australia.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Top Abu Dhabi bank comes out of red

**ABU DHABI (R)** — Abu Dhabi's major bank, the National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD), rebounded into profit last year after heavy losses in 1987 due to large provisions against bad loans. An NBAD spokesman said it made net profits of \$6.6 million (\$23.5 million) in 1988 after losses of 141 million (\$38.4 million) the previous year. "We expect that provisioning requirements will be considerably lower in future years," the spokesman quoted NBAD Chairman Mohammad Harboush Al Suwaidi as saying. In the past few years, the bank had built up a fund against bad loans of over one billion dirhams (\$272 million), he said. Provisions for bad loans fell to 98.77 million dirhams (\$26.9 million) in 1988 from 233.8 million (\$63.7 million) in 1987. Assets in calendar 1988 rose to 24.6 billion dirhams (\$6.7 billion) from 19.9 billion (\$5.4 billion) in 1987.

#### UAE telecom firm puts in record gain

**ABU DHABI (R)** — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) telecommunications firm Etisalat, the biggest quoted UAE company, reported record 1988 profits despite a series of rate cuts over the year. The firm said net profit rose 28 per cent over 1987 to 669.9 million dirhams (\$181 million). It said it proposed raising total dividends almost 14 per cent to 597.6 million dirhams (\$161.5 million). Stock of Etisalat, which was privatised six years ago and is capitalised at \$404 million, was being quoted at 545 dirhams (\$148.50) through the UAE's telephone-traded market. So far, only UAE nationals can buy shares.

#### Tunisia announces new oil find

**TUNIS (R)** — A Kuwait company has struck oil in a previously unproductive part of Tunisia, the national economy ministry has announced. A test well sunk in the Kairouan north concession by the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) has been producing about 400 tonnes of good quality crude a day since April 2, the ministry said in a statement. The onshore well, named Sidi Kilani-1, is in the province of Mahdia near the village of Sousse, about 160 kilometres south of the capital Tunis, said the statement carried by the official news agency TAP. "Although the preliminary results are considered encouraging, it is however premature to speculate on the size and the commercial viability of this discovery," it added. Tunisia produced five million tonnes of crude in 1987, equivalent to about 100,000 barrels a day. Production has been declining throughout the 1980s and planners expect the country to become a net oil importer around 1993.

#### Mubarak urges Egyptians to work hard

**CAIRO (R)** — President Hosni Mubarak urged Egyptians Monday to derive inspiration from the liberation of the Sinai Peninsula for hard work to overcome economic woes. "We are capable of overcoming all difficulties facing Egypt," Mubarak said in a televised speech marking the seventh anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. Raising the flags over the liberated lands must persuade us to exert maximum effort to overcome all economic problems," he said. Egypt is burdened by a \$43 billion foreign debt and has so far failed to reach a new pact on economic reforms with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to allow it to enter fresh debt rescheduling talks with creditors. The anniversary of the return of Sinai to Egypt should be regarded as a "renewal of confidence in ourselves to help rebuild the country and protect its stability," Mubarak said.

#### Kuwait recruits foreign power experts

**KUWAIT (AP)** — Kuwait is gathering a group of prominent European power experts seeking to rectify a fault in the electricity network that has caused two major blackouts in four months, Electricity and Water Minister Hammad Al Rughub was quoted as saying Monday. Al Rughub told the Kuwaiti daily Al Watan that engineers from Britain, France and West Germany will arrive in Kuwait next week "to study the performance of the power network and propose solutions for averting the repetition of technical faults." The cabinet Sunday approved the recruitment of foreign experts and issued strict instructions to the ministry's personnel to avoid cutoff in the electric current. After the last power failure on April 13, the Kuwaiti Crown Prince warned that all those responsible for the power collapse should be punished.

#### 1.5m Bangladeshis demand higher wages

**DHAKA (AP)** — Buses stayed off the streets and factories closed in Dhaka Monday as 1.5 million workers across the country began a day-long strike for higher wages, news reports said. United News of Bangladesh said employees of the public transport system did not show up for work and many car-owners stayed off the roads for fear of violence. The workers are demanding that their monthly wages be increased from 800 taka (\$25) to 1,400 taka (\$44). They also are seeking a cost-of-living increase equal to 60 per cent of their salaries and have rejected a government offer for 10 per cent that was scheduled to begin in July. Nirmal Sen, a spokesman for the unions, said the strike covered factory, transportation and shop workers.

#### Iranian exports decline by 11 per cent

**NICOSIA (R)** — Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$971 million in the last Iranian year ending March 20, 11 per cent less than the previous year, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Monday. It said hand-woven woollen carpets, pistachio nuts, hides and copper bars comprised two-thirds of the exports. Other major items included dried fruits, minerals, fish, shrimps and textiles. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, gave no reason for the decline but Iranian businessmen say the firming of the rial in the open market following last August's ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war made exports less profitable. Tehran has not given an official figure for its oil revenue in the last Iranian year, projected at about \$10 billion. Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said last month that higher crude prices had increased Iran's revenue by \$1.5 billion in the first quarter of 1989.

## ATT earnings rise 20.6 per cent

**NEW YORK (R)** — American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (ATT), enjoying a boom in the long-distance telephone market, has said its first quarter profits jumped to \$594 million from \$492 million a year earlier.

Revenues rose to \$8.66 billion from \$8.39 billion, buoyed by robust long-distance and product sales.

ATT's good news was not surprising. Analysts had expected earnings growth of 15 to 20 per cent. In addition, rival MCI Communications Corp has said its first quarter profits were up 132 per cent, to \$135 million from \$58 million.

"These results show continued progress," ATT Chairman Robert Allen told shareholders at company's 104th annual meeting. "We're seeing new vigour in our long-distance business and strong growth in international sales of products and services."

Allen added he would not be surprised if 21 per cent profit growth continued throughout 1989.

"This is not an aberration, at least based on our business plan,"

he told reporters. "The pace (of earnings growth) we have seen in the first quarter of the year was expected."

ATT's long-distance operations are being fuelled by aggressive advertising and sales promotions, an expanded sales force and increased regulatory flexibility, the company said in a statement.

ATT's long-distance usage climbed five per cent in the first quarter.

Internationally, Allen said ATT was looking for a second supplier of personal computers. Intel Corp, which said recently it seeks to sell complete personal computers based on its popular microprocessors, is among the leading candidates, he said.

ATT currently sells personal computers made by Olivetti and Co. the Italian office systems company in which it has a 21 per cent stake.

The company's relations with Olivetti, strained recently, remain unchanged, Allen said, adding that finding a second supplier would "only be good business."

## Franco-Lebanese bank runs into difficulties

**PARIS (R)** — The Bank of France said Monday it had appointed a temporary administrator for the United Banking Corporation, a French-registered bank owned mainly by Lebanese-based interests.

The central bank said in a statement United ran into difficulties in its treasury operations Friday, leading the French Banking Commission, the official banking watchdog, to conclude United was unable to continue business.

Shareholders were seeking a solution to avoid loss of customer deposits and damage to the balance sheet. They would either inject capital or find new partners, the statement said.

One authoritative banking source said United is majority-owned by a Lebanese group, with the remaining capital dispersed among other Lebanon-based interests. He declined to name the majority stakeholder.

With a balance sheet total of 1.6 billion francs, (\$255 million)

United had equity capital of 101 million francs (\$16 million) at the end of 1988 and reported a loss for the year, the source, who asked not to be named, said.

The initial losses were identified about two weeks ago at around 35 million francs (\$5.5 million), but could be double that amount, he added.

United is the fourth bank connected with Middle Eastern interests to run into difficulties in recent months.

In October, 1988, the Bank of France intervened when Al Saudi Banque was unable to meet commitments, requiring all Paris-based banks to contribute to a bailout fund.

The central bank in late February withdrew the banking licence of Banque de Participations et de Placements (BPP), run by Lebanese businessman Roger Tamraz, and the Lebanese central bank earlier stepped in to support Paris-based Al Mashreq Bank, which was connected with the BPP.

## New arrests deepen Bordeaux wine scandal

**AGEN, France (R)** — France's new Bordeaux wine scandal deepened this week after police arrested directors of a big distributor of well-known vineyards on suspicion of fraud.

Christophe Piat and Jacques Reyn, of Vinyrama, were taken into custody at the weekend and charged in this southwestern town by examining magistrate Jean De Maillard, who is probing a cheap-wine-in-expensive-bottles racket.

Top vineyard holdings by Vinyrama include Margaux, Pomerol, Saint-Emilion and Sauternes.

Before the arrests, authorities sealed Vinyrama warehouses containing millions of bottles of wine. A big British truck that had come to load up went away empty.

Investigations began three months ago when police discovered an illegal shipment of wine during a routine road check. About 50 people have been interrogated in the past two weeks.

So far 17 people have been charged with false labelling, false advertising and fraudulent representation of the quality of goods sold. Eleven are in detention.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 24, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	85.8	86.5
Pound Sterling	921.5	931.3	Japanese yen (for 100)	409.4	413.4
Deutschemark	290.9	293.7	Dutch guilder	271.5	280.4
Swiss franc	329.2	332.6	Swedish crown	85.3	86.0
			Italian lira (for 100)	39.6	40.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	138.9	140.2

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	1.7112/22	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1865/75	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8528/35	Deutschemark
	2.0920/30	Dutch guilders
	1.6323/33	Swiss francs
	38.81/84	Belgian francs
	6.2825/75	French francs
	1360/1361	Italian lire
	131.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.3070/20	Swedish crowns
	6.7300/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.2153/85	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	383.95/384.25	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

**SYDNEY** — The market was sharply higher at the close after news of a hostile raid on Goodman Fielder Wattie stock by Rank Hovis McDougall. The All Ordinaries index was up 23.3 at 1,475.9.

**TOKYO** — Prices ended lower in the slowest trade of 1989 on concerns over interest rates and the domestic political situation. The Nikkei was down 223.89 to 32,805.92.

**HONG KONG** — Blue chips closed a season day lower after thin trading. The Hang Seng index closed 13.24 lower at 3,095.99.

**SINGAPORE** — Share prices closed marginally higher but off early gains in intermittent profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index rose 2.97 to 1,247.24.

**BOMBAY** — The exchange was closed to let brokers settle pending transactions for the two weeks ended last Friday. Trading resumes Tuesday.

**FRANKFURT** — Shares closed mixed to lower in quiet trading, with last week's Bundesbank rates rises still weighing on the market. The DAX index fell 7.83 to 1,368.38.

**ZURICH** — Prices closed generally easier on low turnover as higher Swiss interest rates dampened market sentiment. The all-share Swiss index fell 0.4 to 1,024.1.

**PARIS** — Shares were steady by midday but off their morning highs, with operators cautious following last week's Bundesbank rates rise.

**LONDON** — Stocks were mixed to slightly firmer in the afternoon in quiet business, with share turnover amongst the lowest so far this year. Dealers said concerns that key U.K. trade figures Wednesday could hurt sterling and trigger rise in interest rates continue to weigh on the market. At 1452 GMT the FTSE 100 was up three at 2064.0.

**NEW YORK** — Selling resumed in mid-morning after a brief recovery followed early profit-taking. The Dow was down 10 at 2,399.

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## Baseball Roundup

ATLANTA (AP) — Dale Murphy had the second six-RBI game of his career, hitting a two-run homer in the third inning, a two-run single in the sixth and a two-run double in the eighth Sunday to lead Atlanta past San Diego 9-4.

Murphy has nine RBIs in the last three games — all against San Diego. He boosted his batting average from .136 to .194, getting six hits in 13 at-bats over that span.

Murphy's previous six-RBI game was on July 12, 1978, against San Francisco.

Tom Glavine, 3-0, allowed eight hits in 6.2 innings, struck out four and walked two.

Atlanta scored three runs in the first off Dennis Rasmussen, 1-3. Gerald Perry hit a two-run homer, his third of the season, and Jeff Treadway hit a run-scoring single.

Pirates 6, Phillies 4

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bobby Bonilla's two-run homer in the eighth inning capped Pittsburgh's rally from a four-run deficit and Logan Easley won his first game since April 20, 1987.

Philadelphia led 4-0 — all on unearned runs — before Pittsburgh scored three runs in the sixth and three in the eighth.

Singles by pinch-hitter John Cangelosi, Jose Lind and R.J. Reynolds in the sixth scored a run and chased starter Larry McWilliams.

Ricky Jordan misplayed Bonilla's grounder to first, allowing a second run to score and Barry Bonds followed with a run-scoring groundout.

Gary Redus singled off Mike Maddux to open the eighth. Jose Lind sacrificed and R.J. Reynolds hit a game-tying double off Steve Bedrosian, 1-2. Bonilla, who hit 24 homers last year, followed with his first home run off the season.

Mike Schmidt hit a two-run homer in the first, the 547th of his career.

Expos 9, Cardinals 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Spike Owen had three hits and drove in three runs and Hubie Brooks homered as the Expos snapped a three-game losing streak.

Montreal, which had been held to four runs by St. Louis in the previous three games, had 15 hits off five Cardinals' pitchers, including four doubles and two triples. Tim Lincecum had three hits and scored two runs.

Brynn Smith, 2-0, gave up five hits and struck out two in seven innings. Joe Hesketh finished the combined seven-inning.

Cris Carpenter, 0-1, gave up three runs and six hits in 4.1-3 innings.

St. Louis shortstop Ozzie Smith, who has won nine straight gold gloves, committed his third error of the week.

Mets 4, Cubs 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin McReynolds hit a two-run, go-ahead homer in the eighth inning as New York won despite Andre Dawson's 300th career home run.

It was the Cubs' sixth loss in seven games and the Mets' fifth victory in their last seven. New York has come from behind in its last four victories and six of eight this season.

Calvin Schiraldi, 1-1, walked Tim Lincecum leading off the eighth and McReynolds followed with his second homer of the season, giving the Mets a 3-2 lead.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Waltrip charges to victory

MARTINSVILLE, Virginia (AP) — Darrel Waltrip charged to his third victory of the season, leading off a late challenge by Dale Earnhardt in winning the Panall sweatshirts 500 Sunday at Martinsville Speedway. Waltrip, who opened the season with a dramatic victory in the Daytona 500 and won at Atlanta, led the final 52 laps of the 500-lap, 263-mile (423-kilometre) event on the .526-mile (.846-kilometre) Oval. Waltrip, 42, a three-time Winston Cup champion, has 76 career victories. Waltrip chose to pass up a pit stop when the rest of the leaders went in during the last of five caution periods. That put him in the lead on lap 314. The final 180 laps were run under the green flag and Earnhardt took the lead when Waltrip made his final pit stop on lap 418. Waltrip, who won only three races in the past two seasons, averaged a race record 79.025 MPH (127.174 KPH), breaking his mark of 78.025 (125.56) set in 1978. But he fell short of Cale Yarborough's 1978 track mark of 79.185 (127.432). The winner earned \$53,600.

## Scoggin, Wyland win 10-metre platform

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — Matt Scoggin, the 1977 winner of this event, and Wendy Wyland, the 1984 Olympic bronze medalist, won the 10-metre platform titles in the U.S. Diving Championships Sunday. Scoggin broke away from the field in the men's event after the fourth of 10 dives. He led Olympian Patrick Jeffrey by one point, going into the fifth dive, where each attempted an armstand cut-through reverse 1½ somersault free. Scoggin scored 70.20 points to Jeffrey's 63.96 and began the pullaway. He won with 616.77 points. Jeffrey finished second with 582.18 points. "All the hard work and training the last three months paid off," said the 25-year-old Scoggin, winner over the famed Greg Louganis in the nationals two years ago. "Usually when I train this hard, I injure myself. I stayed healthy and I'm in the best shape of my life," Scoggin said. "This assures me I have the capability." Wyland, 24, wearing a patch to protect a punctured ear drum injured in practice two weeks ago, held off defending champion Wendy Lian Williams to earn her first National title in five years.

## Finance policeman replaces Nebiolo

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Italy's Athletics Federation Fidal Sunday elected a lieutenant-colonel in the finance police to succeed former President Primo Nebiolo who resigned in January after a series of damaging scandals. Gianni Gola, 42, won more than 75 per cent of the votes at an extraordinary meeting in Florence and said his aim was to "avoid every possible centralisation of authority." Gola began his athletics career in 1961 as a shot putter. Two years later he switched to discuss and then the hammer, becoming Italian junior champion in the latter discipline. He gave up competitive athletics at the age of 19 to enter the finance police. Nebiolo, a Turin lawyer, quit Fidal after 20 years at the helm but remains President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Pressure on him to step down mounted a year ago after the Italian Olympic Committee found officials had rigged a long jump result at the 1987 Rome world championships which resulted in Italian Giovanni Evangelista wrongly being awarded the bronze medal.

## FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1989

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Hunter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: What is reasonable, is possible. Perfection is a dream that rarely appears in the real world. Change is in the wind when innovative ideas emerge.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Me first; take it or leave it! That attitude has gotten you into difficulties before. Use your talents for income-raising and business. You are a self-starter. A financial deal must wait for its maturity. Emotions can cloud your appraisal of life.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are pampered by a devotee. Practice moderation and prepare for a couple of busy days ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Intuition is clever, and it can be used for experimental projects. Avoid a fair weather friend who tries to involve you in his or her problems.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are faced with an important decision. Keep finances growing in order to have something to fall back on.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are given additional responsibility that is also challenging. You could win greater freedom. Be diplomatic and soften your responses.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use your initiative to start new ideas. A more unorthodox approach is needed. Bring more color into your wardrobe by looking chipper.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may have to give up something and get nothing in return. Focus on local travel and keeping personal records up-to-date.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Look before you leap. You usually do, but this is a very active time with many options to look at. Establish a plan of action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Work for a tighter, more cohesive family. Humors and psychic inspiration work wonders. Spell out any agreements in detail.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are a self-starter. A financial deal must wait for its maturity. Emotions can cloud your appraisal of life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Affairs of the heart are on the top of the list. If strong messages are not getting through to someone, try a humorous approach.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can get flustered over small matters and worry yourself into a furor. You will be laughing about all of this after the stress passes.

He or she will be attracted to variety and change. Your child will not like to follow established norms; thus, he or she can be an experimenter and inventor by finding unique and original ideas for almost everything. Expect your son or daughter to be a high energy person.

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor, Jr.

ACROSS  
1 Constatment: var.  
6 Snake —  
10 Sherry  
14 Zoroastrian: var.  
15 Bouquet  
16 Variable star  
17 Flavoring  
18 Tasty  
19 Transposed  
22 — Hairs  
23 Invalidate  
24 Performer  
25 Counter of a kind  
26 UFO being  
27 Rich soil  
28 Chicken  
31 Snatch  
35 Corroded  
36 Refuse  
37 Camouflaged  
38 Ancient port  
40 Indian  
41 Shaped like a  
43 Black bird  
45 Prices  
46 Loose-fitting shirts  
49 Small mess  
50 White poplar  
51 Kind of gun  
52 Bird's nest  
57 Inscrutable pillar  
58 Words of understanding  
59 Seed cover  
60 Asian weights  
61 — do-well  
62 Grey leas  
63 Pasties

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3 Capt. Samozai  
4 Agrees  
5 Architectural  
6 Fencing play  
7 Glamorous  
8 Sixth sense  
9 Fraud  
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11 Fasting guests  
12 Chris of tennis  
13 Hindu garment  
14 Cigar ending  
15 Big — Calif.  
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19 lot  
20 Pyromania  
21 Entrances  
22 Wernher Von Braun  
23 Busy as —  
24 Auction action  
25 Made cloth  
26 Dentist at  
27 East lets  
28 Lodge  
29 Humble  
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31 "Uncle Miltie"  
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## Johnson 'welcome' at 1992 Olympics

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — The shadow of Seoul hangs over the International Olympic Committee as its top officials meet in the city where the next summer games will be held.

Some 3½ years before the 1992 Olympics open in Barcelona, the IOC's executive board was beginning four days of meetings Monday, with drug use among athletes again up for discussion.

As the board prepared to ask the federations governing summer sports to adopt uniform anti-doping policies, its leader said Sunday that the biggest drug cheat of the Seoul games, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, would be welcome to compete in Barcelona in 1992.

"Why not?" IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said when asked if he would like to see Johnson competing for a gold medal again.

The board's agenda for the week contained nothing dramatic, although it was to deal with eligibility for soccer players in the '92 games.

FIFA, soccer's world body, wants to limit the Olympic tournament to players 23 years and younger; while the IOC wants broader eligibility.

No final decision was expected here.

Johnson was stripped of the gold and a world-record time of 9.79 seconds when he tested positive for illegal steroids in Seoul. He then was banned from international competition for two years, so he would have from September 1990 until the games of 1992 to get ready.

The sprinter has denied taking performance-enhancing drugs, has returned to training and says he wants to compete in Barcelona.

Even though Johnson might have created the biggest drug scandal in Olympic history, Samaranch said he would be treated "like any other athlete."

"Johnson was treated like any other athlete in Seoul when we suspended him," Samaranch said. "Now, we have to do the same... he must not get more sanctions because he is Johnson. This is not fair."

The Johnson case focused worldwide attention on drug use in sports.

Government and sports officials agreed to test athletes year-round, not just at major competition. The United States, the Soviet Union and East Germany said they would join forces in an anti-drug campaign. The Canadian government ordered an inquiry into drug use by its athletes.

Samaranch said he was not surprised by the waves created. "When we suspended him, we had in mind that we were suspending at that moment the no. 1 athlete in the world," he said.

Samaranch also reiterated that those most guilty in the Johnson case were coaches, trainers and others who helped him use the drugs.

"I have said many, many times that I think the people who are really guilty are the people surrounding Johnson," he said.

## Soviet tennis stars rebel

NICE, France (AP) — Soviet tennis player Andrei Chesnokov wants to follow the lead of compatriot Natalia Zvereva and keep more of the big paychecks he's earning.

Chesnokov, 23, defeated Jerome Potier of France 6-4, 6-4, Sunday in the finals of the \$200,000 Swiss Open tennis tournament, good for a \$28,000 first prize.

But for Soviet players, prize-winning performances have meant money in the bank for the Soviet Tennis Federation. Chesnokov wants to join with Zvereva and change all that.

"I want to keep this money, and I will tell the federation I will keep this money and try to change the situation for next time," Chesnokov told reporters.

The 17-year-old Zvereva, ranked in the top 10 and rising on the women's circuit, announced 10 days ago that she was hiring the sports agency Proserve and wanted to collect her tournament checks directly.

"I think Zvereva is quite right," Chesnokov said. "I want to do the same thing as Zvereva, but when? I want to speak with some people about this situation Monday."

He refused to say whom he would be meeting, and stopped short of declaring that he intended to follow her example and sign a player agent.

The Nice tournament was the third Chesnokov has won, bringing his career earnings to more than half a million dollars.

"Out of the \$500,000, I received maybe \$10,000 to \$20,000," Chesnokov said. "When I won \$39,500 at Orlando, I got 486 bucks from the federation. Do you believe that? 486?"

The Soviet player did not seem to think negotiation with the Soviet Tennis Federation would work.

"It's impossible to talk to the federation. Only one way to do it: Zvereva found the way," he said.

Earlier in the week, Chesnokov spoke of the frustration of watching his earnings go into the federation's checkbook.

"When you win \$100,000, 200,000 and get from this money nothing, there is no motivation and no interest to play," Chesnokov said Saturday. "I want to play good tennis. I want to be the best tennis."

This week, Chesnokov was to play his best tennis in the 702,500-dollar Monte Carlo Open, where Mats Wilander and Boris Becker and Andre Agassi were also expected to play.

When the playoffs start Thursday night, we're going to see what we can do about another one (championship).

When presenting Abdul-Jabbar with the Rolls Royce, I mate Magic Johnson said, you've been carrying us on your back all these years, we decided to get you something to carry you around town. We hope that you enjoy it. All we want is a ride.

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## Abdul-Jabbar fares well

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar made the 25th and final stop on his retirement tour Sunday — at the home of the Los Angeles Lakers — and received a Rolls Royce from his teammates and a tennis court from the Lakers' owner.

In addition, Inglewood Mayor Ed Vincent announced that the name of a street bordering the east parking lot of the team's home court — The Forum — that was previously known as Forum Way, has been changed to Kareem Court.

The 45-minute retirement ceremony took place just before the Lakers beat the Seattle SuperSonics 121-117 in the final regular-season game of Abdul-Jabbar's 20-year NBA career.

Abdul-Jabbar scored 10 points and grabbed six rebounds while playing 26 minutes.

Abdul-Jabbar, who turned 42 on April 16, leaves the game having set numerous records. He's played more seasons than anyone ever, 20, more games, 1,560 and more minutes, 57,446.

He's also the NBA's all-time leading scorer with 38,389 points on a third-leading rebounder with 17,440, has played in 19 all-star games, won six most valuable player awards and been a member of six championship teams.

Abdul-Jabbar, who sat in an oversized rocking chair during the ceremony, gave thanks afterwards to many people including his teammates, the Lakers' coaching staff, John Wooden, his coach at UCLA, his parents and four children, who were on hand, and the fans.

About team owner Jerry Buss and general manager Jerry West, Abdul-Jabbar said, "They made it real easy for me to stay here. They made me offers I couldn't refuse."

Citing the success of the Lakers, Abdul-Jabbar said, "hopeful-

ly, when the playoffs start Thursday night, we're going to see what we can do about another one (championship).

When presenting Abdul-Jabbar with the Rolls Royce, I mate Magic Johnson said, you've been carrying us on your back all these years, we decided to get you something to carry you around town. We hope that you enjoy it. All we want is a ride.

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## Edberg beats Lendl

TOKYO (R) — A speedy, on-form Stefan Edberg of Sweden overcame Czechoslovak world number one Ivan Lendl 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 in the final of the \$752,500 Japan Open Tennis Tournament Monday.

The win brought Wimbledon champion Edberg his 19th career title, and a first Grand Prix tournament victory for six months. For Lendl, it was only the second defeat of the year out of 25 matches.

During much of the two-hour, seven-minute tussle, the players looked evenly matched. Edberg played the silent, serve-and-volley assassin at the net and Lendl the man on the baseline with the powerful passing shots.

But in the third set, Edberg changed tactics and raised his play to break Lendl's serve in the ninth game and go 5-4 up.

"I wanted this win very badly and kept myself cool," said the Swede, ranked fifth in the world and seeded second here.

"I worked very hard. I was serving well and volleying well... playing good from the baseline and returning his serve."

"The way I played today is not very far from the level I played at Wimbledon," he added.

Edberg roared into the first set, dominating from the net where his fast footwork and lightning reflexes enabled him to return Lendl's strong groundstrokes. He broke Lendl's serve in this game.

But Lendl rallied. He opened the second set with an ace and produced a series of unstoppable returns to go 2-0 up. He took the set 6-2 after breaking service again in the last game.

Club officials estimated that more than one million people had filed into the ground to pay their respects in the eight days since the tragedy struck at Sheffield Hillsborough Stadium at a match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

Liverpool fans would be asked what should be done with the thousands of scarves and other tributes while the club was planning a more permanent memorial to the dead.

The queue to enter the ground stretched for two miles (three kilometres) on Sunday morning, and police said up to 20,000 people an hour were passing through the stadium.

## Fans weep for Liverpool dead

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — Thousands of soccer fans broke down in tears at Liverpool's Anfield Stadium on Sunday at a religious service to the memory of the 95 victims of Britain's worst sports disaster.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish and his players gathered inside the ground for the service of blessing conducted by the city's Roman Catholic archbishop, Derek Worlock.

Many fans and relatives of the victims wept uncontrollably as they linked arms and sang the Liverpool anthem "you'll never walk alone."

Over the past week Liverpool supporters and other mourners have turned Anfield Stadium into a shrine to the dead.

A sea of scarves and flowers covered almost a third of the playing area in front of the famous "Kop" terrace where the club's fans stand to cheer their heroes.

"You have made what could have been a sombre graveyard into a beautiful Easter garden," Worlock said.

Club officials said a single flower for each of the fans who died would be thrown into the river Mersey, which runs through Liverpool.

Liverpool Football Club marked the end of a week of mourning when it closed the gates of the stadium after the service on Sunday evening.

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# Stormy protests engulf Peking's universities

**PEKING (R)** — Stormy scenes erupted on Peking campuses Monday when striking students rallied to demand dialogue with communist leaders on democratic reforms.

As a protest campaign entered its second week one mass meeting collapsed in chaos with accusations that authorities were infiltrating the movement.

Calls for a nationwide classroom strike won widespread support at major colleges in Peking and few students attended classes. They appeared to have little impact elsewhere in the country.

In two provincial capitals, Xian and Changsha, tension was still running high after rioting during the weekend linked to the death of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, residents said.

Teachers in Changsha, Hunan province, quoted students as saying 300 to 400 people had been arrested in rioting but only a few students were involved. A local official said only 20 to 30 had been detained.

At Peking University, students

put up posters outside the campus calling for press freedom and democracy, attracting crowds of curious workers, in the first political poster campaign to appear on the streets of the capital since the ill-fated "democracy wall" movement 10 years ago.

Organisers of last week's huge demonstrations in central Peking held a rally of about 4,000 students to announce plans for new democratically-elected student associations to replace existing, officially-sponsored bodies.

But the meeting on Peking University's sports ground ended in uproar and acrimony after some students on the nine-member organising committee called for the expulsion of another as an alleged infiltrator working for authorities.

Zhang Zhiyong, the accused activist, who is also representative of an official student body,

was prevented from addressing the crowd, hundreds of whom walked away in disgust. Other student leaders opposed the expulsion, calling for unity.

"This is not democracy, this is just chaos and it gives a very bad impression to students who are unsure whether to take part. It is sad," a woman student commented.

Earlier, the rally heard calls for the release of political prisoners, the end to the constitutional "leading role" of the Communist Party, and the resignation of premier Li Peng and vice-premier Yao Yilin.

"Our initial goal is dialogue with the government," one activist told the crowd, to a roar of applause.

Wang Dan, a history student, said their campaign was "the most important student campaign for 70 years," referring to the 1919 May 4 movement, whose anniversary is expected to be marked by new demonstrations.

Turning point  
"We are at an historical turning

point. The leaders have seen what the power of the people is. History will show that our actions were just ones," he declared.

At Qinghua University, 2,500 students gave thunderous applause to prominent academic Chen Mingyuan who made an outdoor speech attacking China's propagandist media.

"You (the media) are not deaf and dumb, why don't you admit you have made mistakes," he said. "When you go to bed at night, think about why you can't sleep."

"They (the leaders) have trampled on the constitution. We are defending it," said Chen, a philosopher from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. China's constitution guarantees freedom of speech, press and association and the right to demonstrate.

Students from the University of Politics and Law marched through streets in the northwest of the city collecting donations from passers-by. Neither college officials nor police made any effort to obstruct them.



Thousands of Chinese students demonstrate in front of the Great Hall of the People in Peking demanding democracy.

The tone of the hundreds of posters plastering the walls of campuses has become increasingly strident since they first appeared April 15 after the death of Hu Yaobang, who was forced to resign as party chief in 1987 and has become a symbol of democratic freedoms for protesting students.

the vitriolic personal attacks made on officials during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s have appeared at Peking Teaching University.

Some lampoon the premier as a pig and a snail, "afraid to come out of his shell and face students" and the official New China News Agency as a dog with the word "rumour" written on its

tongue. Another shows national leader Deng Xiaoping, party chief Zhao Ziyang and Li adrift in a boat, unable to decide which way to steer.

Zhao left the student unrest behind him Monday, arriving in North Korea for his first official foreign visit for nearly two years.

## Cheney calls for SDI cuts, delay of Stealth

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is calling for cuts in proposed Star Wars spending and a delay in the B-2 Stealth bomber to meet the \$299.2 billion Defence Department budget the Bush administration and congressional leaders have agreed upon.

Cheney, in a television interview Sunday, also said President George Bush has decided to move ahead with two kinds of mobile strategic missiles, combining the MX and the Midgetman missiles in the nation's defence.

The defence secretary is scheduled to appear before Congress Tuesday to detail the cuts.

Bush decided to cut spending on Star Wars, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative or SDI, to \$4.6 billion for fiscal year 1990, down from the \$5.9

billion proposed by former President Ronald Reagan. Over the next five years, Bush would spend \$33 billion on the space-based missile defence system, compared to Reagan's proposed \$40 billion.

Cheney said the president will shift the focus of SDI from deployment sometime in the 1990s to research on a more advanced system, known as "Brilliant Pebbles," consisting of thousands of orbiting satellites.

"SDI is alive and well, but like everything else, it has to fit into a reduced budget," Cheney said on NBC-TV's "Meet The Press" programme.

Bush turned down Cheney's recommendation to move the nation's 50 MX missiles, with 10-warheads apiece, from silos to deployment on railroad cars

rather than develop a single-warhead missile to be based on trucks.

The single-warhead missile is backed by National Security adviser Brent Scowcroft and the chairmen of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, and Democratic Representative Les Aspin of Wisconsin.

"What I recommended to the president was that we go forward with the rail-garrison system. Brent Scowcroft recommended we go forward with the small Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). The president basically said, 'try to do both'."

"But instead of doing both simultaneously, we will try to sequence them. That is, we will



Dick Cheney

do rail garrison first, try to put a little bit of money in the budget next year for the small ICBM, and then as we get the rail garrison deployed, we will start to ramp up on the small ICBM," he said.

## Takeshita reportedly asks Ito to take over the helm

**TOKYO (R)** — A leading mass-circulation Japanese newspaper said Monday Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, under fire over the Recruit scandal, had asked veteran party leader Masayoshi Ito to succeed him.

But the former foreign minister told reporters in remarks broadcast on television: "It is not true. I am not so stupid as to do it."

He did not elaborate and Jiji and Kyodo news agencies said Takeshita also denied the Yomiuri Shimbun report. Officials at the prime minister's office declined comment.

Yomiuri quoted "senior politicians close to Takeshita" as saying he could resign as early as next month after passage of the 1989/1990 budget bill through Parliament.

The newspaper said Takeshita asked Ito, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) executive board, to succeed him as party president and prime minister but Ito refused on health and other unspecified grounds.

Ito, 75, is the only senior party leader not implicated in the Recruit scandal that has already forced the resignation of three cabinet ministers.

He is reported to be suffering from diabetes and is reluctant to take over the post and fight what is expected to be an uphill battle to win a scheduled upper house election in August.

The popularity of the ruling LDP has fallen to rock-bottom as a result of the scandal, a controversial sales tax introduced



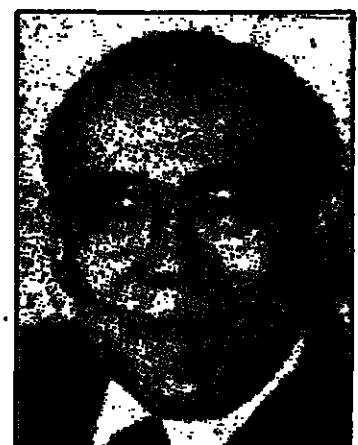
Noboru Takeshita

this month and farm import policies which have angered rural voters.

Takeshita, LDP Secretary-General Shintaro Abe, former Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone and former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa all received cut-rate shares and large donations from Recruit, a telecommunications and publishing firm.

Thirteen people, including top businessmen and bureaucrats, have been arrested in the scandal. A senior ruling party member of parliament (MP), commenting on the Yomiuri report, said such behind-the-scenes moves to prepare for the possible resignation of Takeshita were likely from now on.

The MP, who declined to be named, ruled out the possibility that Takeshita would step down



Masayoshi Ito

before he leaves April 29 for a tour of southeast Asian countries.

Opposition parties have blocked deliberations on the budget to back calls for full disclosure on the Recruit scandal.

Earlier Monday, Kyodo quoted a veteran LDP politician only identified as a party elder from Abe's faction, as saying Takeshita was likely to quit after the passage of the 60.4 trillion-yen (\$457 billion) budget.

Takeshita would be the first prime minister to be forced into resignation over a political scandal since Kakuei Tanaka quit in December 1974 over shady real estate dealings.

More and more LDP lawmakers, as well as senior businessmen, have called on Takeshita to step down after a series of defeats and setbacks in local elections.

## Amnesty pushes for end to death penalty

**LONDON (R)** — Amnesty International called Tuesday for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, saying executions did not deter criminals and were often used for political repression.

"The time has come to abolish the death penalty worldwide," the London-based human rights organisation said in a report. "The case for abolition becomes more pressing with each passing year."

Amnesty said: "No clear evidence that the death penalty has a unique deterrent effect has emerged from many studies made."

Amnesty said it had recorded 15,320 executions in about 90 countries in the past decade but some estimates put the number

since 1979 at more than 40,000. In many countries, it said, execution was used either for political reasons or disproportionately against the poor or certain racial groups.

Thousands of people, some of whom had been tortured, had been put to death after unfair trials in at least 20 countries and children aged only 14 had been executed.

"Prisoners of conscience and the mentally ill have been among those hanged, shot, gassed, electrocuted, poisoned, beheaded or stoned to death by judicial order in the past decade," Amnesty said.

The group's report, covering 180 countries and territories, showed that nearly half the

world's nations had either abolished the death penalty or stopped using it.

Amnesty criticised the United States, where blacks comprise 12 per cent of the population but accounted for 40 per cent of the record 2,182 prisoners on death row at the end of 1988.

"Despite a wide range of safeguards, the use of the death penalty in the U.S. appears to be arbitrary and racially biased," Amnesty said.

"The evidence suggests that race — especially that of the victim — has an important bearing on the likelihood of a death sentence being imposed, particularly in the southern states."

The report criticised the

newest U.S. means of execution by lethal injection. During the execution of Raymond Landry in Texas last December, the tube attached to the needle leaked and witnesses reported hearing groans before the prisoner was pronounced dead 17 minutes later.

Amnesty said thousands of people, including children, were reported to have been executed in Iran for political reasons in the early 1980s, with more than 1,200 political executions in the second half of 1988.

The organisation said it knew of no case in which a defendant on an Iranian revolutionary court on a political charge had been allowed a defence lawyer or an appeal against sentence.

## Pretoria tight-lipped over Irish arms deal

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — South Africa stayed silent Monday about the actions of one of its diplomats caught red-handed in Paris allegedly trying to do an arms deal with Northern Irish Protestant militants.

But the government could not gag opposition criticism over French media reports that Daniel Storm, a technical attaché, tried to trade South African arms for parts of a British Blowpipe surface-to-air missile.

Britain demanded an explanation from Pretoria for the alleged attempt to buy the missile, raising the issue with South African officials in London and Pretoria, diplomatic sources said.

Three alleged members of the Protestant paramilitary Ulster Defence Association (UDA) were charged Saturday with arms trafficking, receiving stolen goods and conspiracy for the purpose of terrorism. French media reports said.

The three men and a U.S. arms dealer were arrested Friday by French counter-intelligence agents at a Paris hotel while in the company of Storm, who was released after claiming diplomatic immunity.

Foreign Minister P. Botha would say only that Storm worked as an administrative and technical officer in the Paris mission and that media reports were

being investigated. Government sources said Storm was still in Paris but he was likely to be recalled.

"The opposition has always warned that South Africa must be very careful in its arms dealings," said Dave Delling, defence spokesman for the anti-apartheid Democratic Party.

"If terrorist organisations are involved, we should know about it," said Kees van der Merwe, defence spokesman of the ultra-rightist official opposition Conservative Party.

Van der Merwe added, however, that he was not against clandestine operations to thwart an 11-year-old international arms

embargo against the white-led republic.

Diplomatic sources said that if the South African government was implicated, fragile links with France would be further strained.

If South Africa were supplying arms to a guerrilla faction in Northern Ireland, its cordial relationship with Britain, one of South Africa's less vociferous critics, would suffer a serious setback, the sources said.

An attempted deal with a guerrilla group would also dent the credibility of a government which constantly preaches against aid to terrorism because it faces armed attack from black nationalist guerrillas, they added.

## Ortega wants Europe to mend his fence with U.S.

**PARIS (R)** — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, starting a European tour, said Monday he wanted Europe to help his country normalise ties with the United States.

"We want to normalise our relations with the U.S. We are not their enemies," Ortega, dressed in battle fatigues, told a news conference. "We want to know exactly what they have against us so we can reply."

Ortega, on the first leg of a 10-nation swing through Western Europe, said he would ask French President Francois Mitterrand to speak on behalf of war-battered Nicaragua when he met President George Bush in May in the United States.

In West Germany and Britain, where he is to meet Europe's foremost conservative leaders for

the first time, Ortega said he would also ask Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to intercede with Washington.

The Nicaraguan leader said he believed Bush was ready to change heart towards the ruling Sandinistas, who have fought for eight years against U.S.-backed contra rebels, but was trapped by the tough line of the previous Reagan administration.

"I do not believe Bush wants a repetition of history," he said. "But violence is rampant across Central America and if the situation worsens it will be difficult for the Americans to implement a new policy."

Ortega said he would press Europeans to back a regional peace plan signed in El Salvador in February and seek financial

aid. Nicaragua, cut off from international credit because of U.S. pressure and heavily reliant on socialist countries, is hoping to clinch \$250 million of Western aid next month at a Stockholm conference of donor countries.

West Germany cut off aid in 1984 in protest at a crackdown on political opposition and Britain has said it will not help Nicaragua until it takes steps to democratisation.

Ortega was to leave Paris Monday for talks with European Community leaders in Brussels and meet Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Wednesday. He will also visit Greece, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Sweden in the most extensive foreign trip he has undertaken.

## You are never alone in the ghettos of Belfast

By Paul Majendie  
Reuters

**BELFAST** — Someone somewhere always seems to be watching you in the bomb-blasted ghettos of Belfast.

Net curtains twitch whenever a stranger walks by in neighbourhoods scarred by 20 years of sectarian warfare between Protestant and Catholic in Northern Ireland.

Curious teenagers, who may well be the Irish Republican Army (IRA) recruits of tomorrow, stand on deserted street corners, watching warily as you pass through their jealously guarded territory.

A British army helicopter hovers constantly above, the whup-whupping of its prop-

ellers a perpetual soundtrack for the daily drama that pits police and troops against IRA guerrillas, Protestant paramilitaries against Irish nationalist gunmen.

Its cameras beam "heli-tele" images to British army headquarters. Sometimes they may be just innocent shots of children playing in streets littered with broken glass, blackened by dozens of petrol bombs.

But last March they beamed back to base horrifying images of two British soldiers being attacked in their car, beaten by an enraged mob, stripped and shot dead after apparently straying into the path of an IRA funeral.

On the streets of west Belfast, teenage British soldiers look straight through you

down the sights of their rifles. They are constantly on the lookout for snipers hidden down an alley, ready to pick out the vulnerable "railend Charlie" on a patrol.

Official eyes watch you from the tops of high-rise apartments where for safety's sake troops have to be flown in by helicopter to their surveillance posts. Even the car number plates of passing motorists are recorded for the computer.

Those high-rise "snooping posts" are a constant challenge to the IRA which recently occupied a vacant apartment directly underneath one of the surveillance towers.

The resulting bomb blew out the apartment's windows, terrified the old people living in the block but failed to injure

any soldiers.

Police stations look like modern-day wild west forts with their fortress walls and turrets topped by swivelling surveillance cameras. Wire mesh nets are put up to stop mortar attacks.

The border with the Irish Republic is dotted with watch towers to monitor the movements of IRA guerrillas in their cat-and-mouse battle against Britain in the deadly "bandit country" on the frontier.

For the visitor wandering warily round Belfast's ghettos and the battlegrounds that have made headlines for two decades, there is never much confusion about whose territory you are in. Graffiti, kerbstones and flags make sure of that.

In a Protestant area, you are greeted by the chilling exhortation "don't be vague, kill a taig (Catholic)."

In a nationalist ghetto, the wall-scrabblers crow over the shooting last month of two senior northern Ireland police officers from the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The grim scorecard reads "IRA 2, RUC 0."

Kerbstones are painted red, white and blue in the colours of Britain's flag for the Protestant loyalist areas. The green, white and orange of the Irish tricolour adorn nationalist pavements.

Flags are flown from high vantage points in a determined bid to enrage the opposing camp on the other side of the

street.

"They mark out their territory like dogs piddling to put down their own markers. Here the people use aerosol cans but they are about as primitive as dogs," one long-time resident said sadly as he viewed ghettos with their hearts ripped out.

But there is a dash of colour amid all the drab gloom of bombed-out houses. Nationalists appear to believe in the motto "if it doesn't move, paint it."

Their ghettos are covered in dramatic murals glorifying the IRA cause, with guerrillas raising their rifles high and pledging "our day will come." Some have been daubed with orange paint, the colour of the Protestant unionists.

Sectarian hatred still burns

as deep as acid, perhaps best illustrated in a drive down Duncrain gardens, a war-weary street that in army parlance is called an "interface" area — Protestants and Catholics live opposite each other.

You can plot that hatred all the way down the street with almost mathematical precision. On one corner, a shop has been blasted by a bomb and left a shattered hulk. On the opposite side, three houses have been fire-bombed in retaliation. The pattern is constantly repeated.

But amid the despondency, a glimmer of Belfast's black humour does shine through. One tobacconist, with his windows barred up in readiness for the next riot, has Christened his shop "The Last Chance."

## COLUMN

### Opera star gets cheering welcome

**LONDON (AP)** — Amid emotional scenes, the audience at London's Covent Garden Royal Opera House welcomed back Spanish tenor Jose Carreras after his recovery from leukemia. The audience rose and cheered as Carreras, 42, appeared on stage for a two-hour song recital. The crowd demanded encore after encore, stamped and applauded and showered the stage with flowers. Carreras, who says he is fully recovered and "100 per cent perfect," was clearly affected by the warmth of his Tuesday night reception. His leukemia was diagnosed in 1987. At one time doctors gave him a 10 per cent chance of recovery, but after bone marrow transplant and chemotherapy, he was pronounced fit and made his comeback before 150,000 opera lovers in Barcelona last July. Carreras, who now devotes part of his income to an international foundation he has set up to fight leukemia, bowed out with a bouquet of red roses presented on stage by Royal Opera chief Jeremy Isaacs.

### Magic wand, fake flies arrive for convention

**MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (AP)** — When Paul Glaros arrived for a convention this week, he made sure he had the right equipment: magic wands, fake flies and red noses. More than 1,000 amateur and professional pranksters from North America and Europe were scheduled to attend the World Clown Association's National Convention, which began Wednesday and runs through Sunday. "Look," Glaros, 65, said in a child's voice as he reached into a big paper bag for what was supposed to be a sandwich. But he cried out in mock pain as he removed his hand, to which an oversized mousetrap was attached. Glaros is the 34-year-old wife. April, are proprietors as well as performers. The snap-trap mousetrap is one of the premier products sold by the couple's Norfolk, Virginia, business, mirth for all reasons. Other silly supplies include plastic whistles, magic hats, flowers-from-a-handkerchief kits, and balls that change colour.

### Sex survey causes uproar

**WASHINGTON (R)** — A government plan to survey America's sex life in explicit detail — including names of partners — has run into trouble because of public opposition. U.S. Budget Director Richard Darman, responsible for supervising the survey, has sent it back to the federal health and human services department for re-drafting after hundreds of people complained it would be a gross invasion of their privacy. The survey was originally aimed at collecting more information on AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). It expanded into an exhaustive survey of U.S. sexual habits. An internal memorandum written late last year by Robert Windom, then an assistant secretary for health, said the five-centimetre thick sex questionnaire "necessarily involves explicit and sensitive questions over an one or two lovers in the past year, but far longer for the more promiscuous. Details were requested on every sexual contact over the preceding year. Details were also requested on sexual techniques, birth control methods, associated use of alcohol or drugs, orgasms, attitudes towards religion and family as well as the partner's marital status, job and approximate income. One question asked what an individual thought of a given statement, such as: 'One-night stands can be very enjoyable.'

### Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
	° C	° F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	05	41	08 Cloudy
ATHENS	11	52	26 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	75	34 Clear
BANGKOK	28	82	37 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	18	64	23 Cloudy
CAIRO	20	68	34 Clear
CHICAGO	05	43	16 Rain
COPENHAGEN	01	34	08 Clear
FRANKFURT	02	36	12 Clear
GENEVA	01	34	14 Clear
HONG KONG	19	66	25 Clear
ISTANBUL	11	52	19 Clear
LONDON	04	39	08 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	11	52	08 Cloudy
MADRID	09	48	16 Cloudy
MECCA	28	79	40 Cloudy
MIAMI	20	68	28 Clear
MONTREAL	27	65	41 Cloudy
MOSCOW	10	50	18 Clear
NEW DELHI	22	71	38 Clear
NEW YORK	01	34	10 Clear
PARIS	07	45	16 Cloudy
ROME	09	43	17 Clear
TOKYO	14	57	21 Cloudy
VIENNA	08	45	20 Clear

كندا والولايات المتحدة